



HASTINGS HAWK

Hastings School Newsletter

Trip To Children's Museum A Huge Success

Our grade 3/4 classes went on a fun filled field trip to the MB Children's Museum on Tuesday, November 25. The children had a ball exploring and playing in the museum. They also created structures out of recycling items.

In Social Studies we are starting our unit on "Living in Canada." We have started Shape and Space in Math, where students are learning



about 2D and 3D shapes. Our classes will be busy next month preparing for our Winter Concert which will be held on Wednesday, December 17th. Stay warm!

Mr. Kehler & Mr. Vilar

Utopian Creative Writing

In room 12 we have been busy and hard at work!

In S.S. Ms. Janicki is teaching us about World War I. In science Mrs. Volkart and Mrs. Burkett are guiding us through our solar system project; we are doing a lot of research. In ELA Ms. Janicki is teaching us about the word "utopia." We are starting a creative writing unit all about our idea of utopia. In French Mme Condon is back and teaching us about "Ma Famille." In math we are learning about input/output and finding new patterns. We are having pretests every Monday for spelling, then on Friday we have our final test.

In room 12 we are reading an awesome book called Dear George Clooney Please Marry My Mom. We are learning our winter concert songs with Mrs. Walker, and it's going great. We just had our conferences and they were fantastic! For the book fair Logan won a poster, and Rodney won \$15.00 worth of books! We are looking forward to finishing our Winn-Dixie novel study. We will be celebrating all of our hard work by watching the movie. December is going to fly by. Happy holidays!

Reporters: Ermelinda & Rodney

In this issue:

Kindergarten - 2

Grade 1/2L - 3

Grade 1/2R - 1

Grade 3/4 - 1

Grade 4/5 - 4

Grade 5/6SP - 3

Grade 5/6V - 1

Grade 7/8BB - 2

Grade 7/8 T- 1

Admin Message - 2

Parking Update - 4

Occupational Therapy - 3

PAC - 4

Seven Teachings in Grade 7/8T

We have been learning all about the Seven Teachings and how following these virtues can help us to be good citizens at school, at home and in our community. The teachings include: honesty, humility, respect, wisdom, courage, truth and love. We researched the meaning of each teaching, the spirit animal associated with the teaching and how each of the teachings is connected to the others.

We will be using these virtues to help us create a classroom agreement to follow throughout the remainder of the school year.

Mr. Thordarson

Students Track Daily Temperature and Weather Conditions

In November students explored literacy and math centers. They continued to work on identifying patterns and strategies when counting and practiced some basic addition. Students wrapped up their learning about daily and seasonal changes by tracking daily temperature and weather conditions and by talking about how humans and animals prepare for changes in seasons. Our students really enjoyed being able to share their learning from the first term with their families during student-led conferences. They were also quite excited to visit the book fair! Here are some activities that stood out for students during the past month...

"We measured shadows." –Saylem

"In science we made plasticine models to show animals getting ready for winter." - Dong

"In gym we practiced headstands, teddy bear stands and flips." –Jesse

"I liked using the bear counters in math to help us with counting." –Endrit

"We practiced counting backwards." –Anna

"We worked with our math buddies to do castle art. We used lines and lots of colours." -Maddie

The Grade ½'s are now very busy preparing their songs for the upcoming Winter Concert!

Ms. Rainka

Administrators' Message

Welcome to December!

It seems like we just started the school year and yet here we find ourselves into December already.

Weather and Wind Chill

The Louis Riel School Division recognizes that it is important for students to have the chance for outdoor physical activity and a chance to play. At the same time, the safety of students must be taken into account when dealing with inclement weather. Students may be allowed outside for a maximum of 15 minutes when the wind chill reaches -27. Students will not be allowed outside for lunch or recess when the wind chill reaches -30. School administration will make their decisions based on the information from the Louis Riel School Division Website.

Winter Concert

Please come and join us in celebrating the winter holiday season with our annual concert on Wednesday, December 17. Shows are in the afternoon and the evening. All of our students have been working very hard in preparation. There will be a bake sale and coffee and hot chocolate available immediately after each show. Please come and join us for this fun event!

Congratulations

Congratulations to all of our school teams on another very successful volleyball season! Special thanks to our coaches for offering their time and to parents for their driving and support. Basketball season starts right after the winter break.

Enjoy these last few weeks of 2014. Have a safe and relaxing winter break and we will see you back on January 5!

Angela Power & Rick Haley

Backwards Counting Counts in Kindergarten

In November, the kindergarten class was busy learning about the changing seasons and what happens to the trees as the weather gets colder. We also participated in our first Remembrance Day assembly and made poppies to show our respect for the soldiers who have fought for our country. We just finished creating snowflakes in Art and really enjoyed getting to see what our snowflakes looked like when they were unfolded.

As December gets underway, we will be focusing on our letter sounds and rhyming. As part of our literacy work, we will be creating rhyming wheels and other literacy activities that will be sent home to give students the opportunity to practice these skills outside of school. Students will also be learning about different types of patterns in Math and practicing our backwards counting. The kindergartens are also busy learning their performance piece for the upcoming Winter Concert, which is always an exciting event.

Ms. Waldner

A Wonderful Student Teaching Experience

Hello, my name is Kelsey Darragh and I am a fourth year Education student from the University of Winnipeg and a teacher candidate here at Hastings. I have been placed in Mrs. Baril-Bissett's Grade 7/8 multiage classroom and have been given the opportunity to not only help out wherever needed, but to also take part in the teaching and instruction of both Grade 7 Art and grade 7/8 Social Studies. My experience here has been a wonderful one so far. The students and faculty have truly welcomed me into the culture and community of the school and it has been such a pleasure to get to know so many lovely people.

Teaching art is something that is completely new to me, but I am very inspired and excited to learn alongside the Grade 7's. We are currently in the middle of a unit about Norval Morrisseau. He was the first Aboriginal Canadian artist to bring the sacred symbols and stories of his people to life through his paintings and make them known to the rest of the world. Norval Morrisseau made this artistic choice in honor of the Ojibwa people and the tales and stories his grandfather had told him while he was growing up. His bright and bold use of colour along with his interpretations of animal life and their meaning to his culture make his work incredibly thoughtful and unique.

We started off our unit by taking what we had learned about the elements of art and doing a gallery walk of nine paintings by Morrisseau. The students had to critically analyze the pieces and were forced to ask questions about what they did not understand or what they would ask Norval Morrisseau if he were around. Next, the students began the research portion of the unit where they were to get to know Norval Morrisseau in order to write a biography piece on him. Within our last two classes of art, I was able to give the students more information on the symbolism in Aboriginal art, particularly Morrisseau's, and together we went around the gallery walk again and were able to look deeper at what his paintings were actually showing and the stories or messages they were trying to tell. The grade 7's will create and type up their biographies about Morrisseau and what they believe they would want people to know about him, his art, and his life.

The next step for our unit is for every student to create their own Norval Morrisseau inspired painting. Students will have to look to their environment, either at school or at home, to become inspired to take on the task of respecting Norval Morrisseau's work and painting a piece in his honor that truly represents them. It will be exciting to watch the Grade 7's express their stories with paint as their medium and I am looking forward to creating my own with them.

I have been so lucky to be placed at such a wonderful school, where I am learning so much about my educational beliefs and my teaching styles. I cannot wait until I have a classroom of my own!

Occupational Therapy Tips and Tricks

What Learning Looks Like in Classrooms in 2014

Classrooms have changed a lot over the past 20, 10 or even 5 years! We have known for a long time that the brain learns through input from our senses: touch, sight, sound, smell, taste, and movement. Recent brain research has led to a growing awareness that the brain continues to grow and change throughout life in response to our experiences. A child's classroom experience can be influenced through thoughtful planning of the physical environment and learning activities. Children learn best when they are calm, alert and regulated.

We also know that children have different strengths in how they learn best. This way of thinking has developed into what is called "Universal Design for Learning" (UDL) - a way of acknowledging and offering learning opportunities that appeal to a wide range of learning styles. UDL recognizes that children may learn best through seeing, moving their body, speaking, logic, rhythm (music), being outdoors, working with others and/or reflecting within themselves. Teachers work hard to plan lessons using UDL principles.

LRSD Occupational Therapists support teachers and students to understand learning styles and self-regulation needs, and to explore ways to address these needs in the classroom. Some school tools you may have heard of or seen in your child's classroom include:

Hand tools such as squeeze balls, pipe cleaners, worry stones - for children who need to fidget or touch while listening

Sound blocking headphones and Chair Sox® - for children who find sounds distracting

Active seating options such as wiggle cushions, Hokki® stools, Zuma® rockers - for students who need to move while they listen

Weighted animals/lap pads/shoulder snakes - for children who calm with deep pressure touch, making them more available for learning .

We Are Hosting The Assembly!

The student's in Mrs. Liddiard's Grade 1/2 class are pleased with the arrival of more snow and are having fun playing with the sled at recess. We have also been enjoying some new math and literacy centres during our Daily 5 periods. In the coming week we will be welcoming Baby Eddy for his fourth visit during Roots of Empathy as we talk about how to treat and care for babies, getting new teeth and showing different emotions.

Come join us as we host the December school assembly on December 12th at 9:15 with Mrs. Waldner's Kindergarten class.

Mrs. Liddiard

The impact of movement and exercise on the brain is becoming very well known. Researchers state that daily activity increases the brain's ability to attend and focus, handle stress, control behavior, and learn. For these reasons, educators are encouraged to include movement within daily routines.

What might this look like in the classroom?

Adding movement into lessons such as spelling while doing jumping jacks

Adding music and actions to reinforce concepts

Having students doing wall-sits or wall push-ups while waiting in the hallway

Using hallway exercise stations for students who need extra movement during the school day

Using games such as Simon Says or internet websites such as Go Noodle/Just Dance Kids to provide movement break opportunities between seated work periods

Hand and core muscle exercises prior to handwriting

Allowing children to use gum or sip cold water while thinking or writing

Many schools have also established indoor recess committees to develop creative solutions that allow for movement activities during those cold winter days!

For more information on the benefits of physical activity on brain development, see:

the book "Spark" by Dr. John Ratey

TED talk at <http://www.johnratey.com/>

Spark Rap video at

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X9ruu9WXE_g&list=PLHO6Gpdt53mdE-ZlicWW1NVBSXRTDUJr9

If you still have questions, talk with your child's teacher or contact your school OT.



I Want To Go Home

This November in 5/6 SP we all made our own amusement parks based on the class novel, I Want To Go Home by Gordon Korman. We used the characters and events from the story to inspire our rides, restaurants, and shows. In art we studied 2 new artists. As part of our study we made colourful duct tape art in the style of Piet Mondrian. They turned out great!

One of the most memorable events for our class this month was leading the school Remembrance Day assembly. We would also like to recognize all the gr.5/6 students who continue to volunteer for patrols, milk sellers, and at Meadowood Manor.

By Erik

Hastings School Parent Association Minutes

The November PAC meeting was cancelled in lieu of parents attending the November 25 LRSD Board of Trustees consultation evening:

The LRSD School Board has started the process of developing their 2015/2016 Budget.

On November 25, 2014 over 100 members of the community attended a session to share their ideas. To gain a glimpse of what occurred at the session, please visit <https://www.lrsd.net/news/pages/lrsd-engages-community-in-consultation-process---take-the-survey-and-watch-the-video.aspx>.

The Budget goes a long way in determining how we can provide for your children and as a result, your ideas are important to us!

LRSD Superintendent Brothers has asked school principals to ensure all parents and guardians have an opportunity to share their thoughts on this important matter.

Please participate in the LRSD online Budget survey located at <https://www.lrsd.net/surveys/Pages/default.aspx>

Thank you!

Quotes From Grade 4/5 for the Last Month

“In Science we have been learning about the human body; we have studied the digestive system, skeletal system and the nervous system. Sometimes it was gross.” - Larissa

“In Math we have been learning about multiplication strategies like for the 9 times table how it goes down from 9-0.” – Nathan

“We have been learning about how to say different foods in French. Une fraise means a strawberry.” - Jenna

“In gym we have been doing Volleyball. It’s really fun!” – Connor

“In Social Studies we have been learning about the Ice Age and First Nations and a lot of other things that I can’t remember right now!” - Emily-Jade

“We have been learning about similes and metaphors in ELA. Similes have like or as and compare different things.” - Daniel

“We have been learning songs in music for the Winter Concert. We are singing *Hot Chocolate, Always Believe, Let’s Sing a Carol, Ready, Set, Snow and Sleigh Ride.*” - Aya

