

We are in the season of Lent. Although I grew up in the Christian Reformed Church, I don't recall a high focus on Lent in my early years. There probably was but I wasn't listening well enough. About thirty years ago, that changed for me.

I had a teaching colleague who was very active in our church. He was an older man and I remember him reading the text in front of church during a lent service and he was drawn to tears. I remember feeling his emotion, sadness, and guilt as he struggled to read through the story of Christ's sacrifice. I could tell that the story was not just words on a page, but a story about him.

Later that week, I talked with him and since then Lent has a new, deeper, personal meaning. My colleague talked about the passage. The betrayal, denial, and guilt he read were not about Judas, the disciples, nor the Roman soldiers or leaders. They were about him. My colleague recognized his betrayal of Christ, his denial of Jesus, and the guilt of his own sin. It was for him that Jesus endured this sacrifice. It was for him that Jesus went to the cross. It was all for him.

Thankfully the story doesn't end there. As sad as my colleague was through lent, he was equally joyful on Easter knowing that it was also for him that Christ rose from the dead, conquered death, and forgave sins - even sins of today, even our sins.

I wonder if students experience the power of Easter through my actions and words. I wonder if students recognize my sorrow for bringing Christ through the events of Good Friday but also my joy of rising with Christ on Easter Sunday. I wonder if I share the story with my students with enough passion that engages them and makes them wonder. I wonder if I make it real and personal enough for them to recognize that the Easter story is not an ancient story, but it is today's story - my story. I wonder...

I continue to pray that God will use me as powerfully as he used my colleague to share the personal meaning of the gospel story. There is lots to wonder but I rest in God's grace.

March Events

26-29 - Online Spring Auction
29 - Term 2 Report Cards go home

Birthday Corner

March 22
Weston V
Mrs. Jones

March 24
Tess V



March 25
Monique K
Katherine V



April Events

2 - Good Friday (no school)
5 - Easter Monday (no school)
20 - Kindergarten Registration
9:30am to 11:30am
26 - Spring Membership Meeting

From the Classrooms

Junior Kindergarten – Mrs. Baarda

This week we will be learning about Baa Baa Black Sheep and making yarn wrapped sheep.

Our **focus letter** this week is letter W and we will learn the sound letter W makes using the Jolly Phonics song. In our workbooks this week we will be reviewing the uppercase alphabet.

In **math**, we will be learning about ordinal numbers and practice recognizing numbers in different forms.

In **Bible**, we will read the stories about The Good Samaritan and The Greatest Commandment.

In **health**, we will continue our unit on the five senses and learn about our sense of smell.

Water bottles: Just a reminder that we are not using the water fountain at school at this time, so please send in a water bottle or a drink with your child to school.

Senior Kindergarten - Mrs. Heida

This week we will focus on the long vowel I. We will continue to match upper and lowercase letters, rhyme words, and listen for the beginning and ending sounds. Our new sight word is "down".

In **math**, we will continue looking at various patterns and completing our patterning book. Daily, we will be counting to 100 and working on number recognition to 20.

In **Bible**, we will be starting our Easter unit with Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey, preparing for the Passover, the Last Supper, and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Our new memory verse we will *Matthew 28:6 "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay."*

In **health**, we will look at various scenarios and decide how we can be a good friend. We will talk about things that friends can do together and learn strategies on how to deal with conflict.

On **MONDAY** wear your colourful socks in recognition of World's Downs Syndrome Day.

On **MONDAY**, please return all library books.

On **Friday** the SKs will complete a circuit of activities for the March Madness Team Event.

The playground is quite soft and muddy. Boots and splash pants seem to be a good choice at this time of the year...MUD season!

Have a great week!!!

Grade 1 - Mrs. Duiella Boeckestyn

I hope you all had a wonderful weekend enjoying the sunshine. This week, we are closing out March with the following:

Sight Words: First, Start, Beginning, Next, Then, Later, After, Middle, Soon, Finally, End

Spelling Words: We continue to practice short vowel sounds and this week our digraphs are "sk", "sp", and "sm"; skip, skin, spit, spin, spoon, spill, spot, sped, small, smell

Memory Verse: We will begin memorizing verses for the Easter story: "Matthew chapter 28 verses 5 to 7. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you. into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.'"

Bible: We will begin going through the Easter story, jumping around chapters in Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Language: The students are becoming more comfortable with procedural writing (How to make a sandwich, how to brush your teeth, how to make your bed, etc). It is challenging work, but with practice, we know it can become easier and more fun!

Math: As always, continue to review skip counting to 100s by 2s, 5s, 10s, adding doubles, and adding bonds that make 5. In the upcoming weeks we are exploring elementary multiplication skills, for example, 5 groups of 2, 3 groups of 3. Having the ability to skip count is extremely helpful to understand the concept of multiplication. We will also begin working on subtraction more diligently and exploring symmetry in art, as well as math.

Library: We get to go to the Library on Friday. Please return the library books so students can loan new ones.

Grade 1 - Ms. ten Brink

Creation Studies - Last week we tried out engineering skills and created an ice cube cooler, looking at the materials we made and the properties they had to help keep our ice cube frozen. We will continue our look at the properties of materials and how matter can change this week.

School News

Library

Monday - Grade 5/6
Wednesday - Grade 3
Friday - Grade 1

Student Leadership

Student Leadership March Madness Event will happen March 25 and 26, 2021. More details yet to come.

FundScrip Order

Don't forget to place your FundScrip order!! Our April orders are due Easter Monday, April 5th, at MIDNIGHT!

Note from Bazaar Committee

Please save any birch branches you received in your Christmas Planters. Drop them off at the school for storage.



School Theme:

"Who is My Neighbour?
Learning to Love Like
Jesus."

Contact Us!

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Grade 2 – Mrs. Dykstra

Thank you families for the wonderful birthday celebration and treats on Friday! We had so much fun together and I am humbled by your care and generosity. Maybe that is why I neglected to remember the spelling test? Haha. I am sorry about forgetting that. We will start our day Monday with the test.

Bible - We have begun our eggciting resurrection egg devotions. Our new memory words are a portion of Zechariah 9:9 "See, your King comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey." We will be reflecting on Passion Week, and the Old Testament connections found in Jesus' experiences in his last week of life.

In **math**, we are wrapping up our unit on word problems. A quiz will take place Thursday.

Spelling Words: New word lists are up on Spelling City. Test is this Friday (definitely) March 26. Our focus sounds are ew, ui, ue.

Reader's Workshop and Writer's Workshop: The Three Little Pigs fractured fairy tales are being written and they are CREATIVE, FUN, and inventive. Finishing up rough copies, editing, and good copies will take up our time this week. We will work again on verbs to add interest in our writing.

Creation Studies: Simply Marvelous Machines: God made Things to Move. We will begin the paperwork portions of our unit and go on an "I Spy" simple machine search around the school property.

PE - We had a good start to creative movement learning some shadow and leachachan moves. This week we will learn movements to the song "He is the Light of the World" and enjoy our team event put on by Student Leadership.

French - counting to 20 with games and partner activities.

Grade 3 - Mrs. Claus

It felt so good to be outside without a coat on the weekend! Enjoying God's creation in a different way was amazing. I hope you enjoyed the warm weather too!

Math: This week we will be trying out an online math program called Khan Academy for a short unit on measuring mass and volume.

Language: We will be working on organization in writing, organization in reading comprehension, and a new spelling list: awful, called, falling, mall, small, straw, drawing, strongest, longer, song, along, bought, brought, rough, tough

Bible: We are continuing our unit on the Birth of a Saviour.

Creation Studies: We learned about what a mammal is last week and picked our research topic. We also learned to research in a book and with an online encyclopedia. This week we will learn about researching using a search engine (kiddle).

There are a few students who still have their cursive books, headphones, and water bottles at home. Please return these items!

Grade 4- Mrs. Delleman

Cursive - Letters U and V are due on WEDNESDAY (pages 52, 53, 54, 55).

Spelling - Unit 22 Dictation FRIDAY - grandfather, popcorn, thank, cupboard, grandmother, playground, third, being, newspaper, cowhands, thirty, doing, these, think - Here is the link to all spelling lists on Spelling City - <https://www.spellingcity.com/users/tdelleman>

Memory Work - due NEXT FRIDAY - Isaiah 1:18 - "'Come now, let us settle the matter,' says the Lord. Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."

Math (I KNOW IT) - Fractions and Decimals - due FRIDAY. If you would like a video on this topic sent to you to support students in their assignment, please let me know!

Grade 5 and 6 – Mr. Katerberg

Welcome to spring!

Bible: We will continue with the beatitudes and the Sermon on the Mount. Part of this is memory work from Matthew 6. Last week we learned vs 19-26 and this week we will add 31-33. By Friday students should know Matthew 6: 19-26, 31-33.

In **math**, we have started an introductory unit on fractions.

We will continue with our **novel study**, Anne of Green Gables. This week will be chapters 17-21.

In **writing** Vignettes 3 and 4 need to be completed by Wednesday. On Tuesday we will start our fiction writing for this term.

Spelling work will be on lesson 25 this week, quiz on Friday.

In **science**, we will learn more about electricity and electrical devices.

Grade 5 and 6 – Ms. Van Kampen

French: A message has been sent home to parents containing the information for this week.

Grade 7 and 8 – Ms. Van Kampen

A message has been sent home to parents containing the information for this week.

Grade 7 and 8 – Mr. Boelens

Math: Both classes are doing great work. Grade 7 is finishing up their unit on percent. Grade 8 is finishing up their unit on geometry. Both classes will have a test on Thursday.

Gym: Students are getting used to a new sport - pickleball. This week we will finish up one tournament and then start a second one. At the end of the week, we will participate in the team event planned by our Leadership Team.

Grade 7 and 8 - Mr. Katerberg

Science: Chromatography lab write-up is due on Wednesday. Chapter 8 quiz is on Friday