

January 9, 2023

In the school system, we have two opportunities for fresh starts. When September rolls around and we begin a new school year, we have great goals, wonderful ideas, and are excited to see what the new school year will bring.

Then in January, we have the start of a new calendar year. Again, we create goals (new year's resolutions) and begin January with great anticipation of what God will accomplish through us in 2023. This morning, I shared with the staff to invite God into those goals and allow him to "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). It is my prayer that God will work in and through us in 2023 in such surprising ways that it will be far beyond and more effective than we would ever imagine.

On another note, Theo VanderGaast, our custodian, suffered a mild heart attack last week. On Friday, he had surgery to install a stint in one artery that was mostly blocked. He has two more arteries that require stints but will have to wait for 2-4 weeks for those to be done. In the meantime, he is at home feeling well but taking some necessary rest. Theo will be off work until after the next surgeries. We are thankful for the medical teams that have helped Theo so far and we pray for continued strength and recovery.

We have a temporary plan in place to ensure the school is cleaned on a daily basis. We will take this week by week but if we need some assistance from our community, we will send out a request. Thanks to the many people who have already offered some help.

January Events

9- First day of school in 2023
13-Skating
20-Skating
27- Skating



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

Jan 13
Reuben D

Jan 14
Wesley D

February Events

2- Hockey Tournament
17- PD Day, No School
20-Family Day

Pizza & Milk Form:

Today in the kidmail, a hot lunch & milk form will be sent home with every family. Please fill out and return this form by **Wednesday January 18th**



Junior Kindergarten- Mrs. Baarda

Welcome back! It is January and we are going to be exploring a winter theme in JK this month. This week we will read the book "The Mitten" and make a snowstorm in a jar!

Our **focus letter** is L. We will learn the Jolly Phonics song for letter L and do a letter search activity as well as some hands-on activities to help us recognize letter L and the sound it makes.

In our **workbook**, we will trace a rectangle, the letters H, T and I.

In **math**, we will be reviewing patterns. Our new focus colour for January is blue, our focus shape is the oval, and our focus number is 5.

In **Bible**, we begin a new unit, and we will start by learning about Jonah. Our new memory verse is "God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." So we say "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid" Hebrews 13:5b-6a. We will also be learning a new song "My God is so Great".

Tuesday is library day! Please return any books you have at home so students may take home new books.

Senior Kindergarten- Mrs. Heida

Happy New Year!! Wishing everyone many blessings throughout 2023!

This week we get back into routine and introduce a few new activities.

This week our **focus letter** will be letter Bb. We will review the alphabet letter sounds, rhyme words from the “am” family and review how to sort by syllables. One of the centers this week will be sorting pictures by beginning sound. I know many of the students are up for the challenge.

We will begin to map the sounds we hear in a word and learn the high frequency words I and like. These are heart words which means we need to know them by heart.

In the next few weeks, I will begin to send home some high frequency readers.

In **math**, we will be counting to 40, printing numbers to 15, and learning the AB pattern and ABC pattern using colours, shapes, and actions.

In **Bible**, we will begin a new unit on Moses. We will hear about Moses in the basket as a baby and how God spoke to Moses through the burning bush. Our **memory verse** is Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.” We will focus on the season of winter, hopefully we get some snow? If not, we will make fake snow, make snowflakes, talk about the importance of winter clothing, and how to take care of ourselves during this season.

TUESDAY=LIBRARY DAY

FRIDAY=SKATING DAY!!!!!! We will be skating from 2 till about 2:40pm. We will arrive at the arena by 1:50pm. If ANYONE can come and help with skates and helmets, that would be greatly appreciated. All SK students will wear snow pants, helmets and mittens on the ice, they will be welcomed to take off their coats if they get too hot. I recommend that their skates come in a bag that they can handle with their helmet and a dry pair of mittens. When we get back to school, the students are often hot and thirsty, so a water bottle or something to drink and a quick snack would be great before heading home on the bus. All students will travel to the arena and back to the school on the bus. If you would like to pick up your child, please come to school and let Michelle know.. This saves a lot of confusion happening at the end of the day. Any questions feel free to contact me at m.heida@listowelchristianschool.ca or 519-492-2981 (text or call).

Grade 1 - Mrs. Dykstra

It is great to be back together! I hope and pray you had a wonderful Christmas holiday spending time with those you love. It will be a week of practicing routines in Grade One, along with getting to hear stories about the break. **Christmas Break Challenge!** For those students who took on the task of completing the extra work, there will be a prize in his/her kidmail today. I will give out prizes until Tuesday, in case anyone forgot to bring in the extra tasks today.

PE: For our January PE program, we skate on Fridays! Please remember snow pants, gloves, skates, and a helmet for your child to be allowed on the ice. You are quite welcome to join us and help to tie skates for our Grade Ones.

Bible: Which Bible character better illustrates how God intercedes on behalf of those who love Him than Joseph? In our new unit, we will see that Joseph followed God no matter what, and that God worked things out for the good of Joseph. How can we relate to the Joseph narrative in our own lives?

Math: Our new unit is all about 2-D shapes. In this geometry unit, students learn to identify, describe, compare, and manipulate circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles. We set out to explore sides and corners first.

Phonics: Review of voiced and unvoiced “th” sounds.

Spelling words: This week Friday (Jan. 13) for dictation we will do a quick review of our pre-Christmas words to get us back into the groove. The goal for phonics spelling is to understand the sounds that are produced by different combinations of letters and what rules apply. Here are the words: that, then, than, them, thin, bath, math, with, thick, path, teeth

Health Unit: We will complete a health unit for a short time. God’s desire is for us to be safe. We look at safety and emergencies (in a faith-based, age-appropriate manner).

Read Aloud: Our class seems to love chapter books being read aloud. Our new series is The Flat Stanley books by Jeff Brown. Mr. Brown’s idea for the first book began as a bedtime story for his sons. (stay tuned as this series will build into a class project)!

French: We review the basic colours and I’ll do a quick assessment with each student.

Partnership at home to build readers: Life is busy, but if you have time, it is always great to read together and talk about what happened in the text. Have your child read as many sounds in words as possible, and help them with the ones we have yet to study. Based on classroom lessons, your child should know the beginning and ending consonant sounds, short vowels, blends, and digraphs.

Announcements

Upcoming Pizza Days

Wed Jan 11: New Orleans Pizza

Wed. Jan 18: Dominos Pizza

Skating

Friday January 13, we will be going skating at the Steve Kerr Arena. The **hockey team** will practice from 12:00 – 1:00.

Students from grades 4-8 will skate from 1:00 – 2:00 and students from SK – grade 3 will skate from 2:00 – 3:00. All parents are invited to join us, and it would be very helpful to have some extra hands for skate tying!

A reminder that all students must have a helmet and mittens/gloves in order to be on the ice surface. We require **all adults also wear helmets when on the ice surface**, regardless of your own confidence in your own skating ability. This is for everyone’s protection as well as to be good role models for the students.

Battle of the Books

Any books that were read over the Christmas holidays need to be returned! The JUNIOR team will be meeting every WEDNESDAY at SNACK RECESS, starting next week. Students will receive questions for the books they will need to be studying at home.

Grade 2- Mrs. Koersen

HAPPY NEW YEAR! We have one more full week together and then Mrs. Grundlingh will be returning January 16. In all honesty, I miss the students since I haven't seen them since last year ! :)

Here's what we're hoping for this week as we try to work back into routines and school responsibilities. PLEASE REMEMBER LIBRARY BOOKS FOR TUESDAY!

MATH: We continue to work at and learn about measuring distance.

WRITING: We will be working on writing a paragraph about our Christmas break!

PHONICS/READING: Working on different letter blends and some phonemic awareness exercises as well as some comprehension.

SPELLING: Look for our new word list coming home hopefully TODAY! Please practice for our spelling test next week!

FRENCH: We will be working on our numbers 1-20. We will have a quiz next week!

CREATION STUDIES: We have a NEW science based unit we will be starting. Ask your child what it's about.

BIBLE: Look for our NEW memory work coming next week! We also will begin a new unit on the Intertestamentary Period.

Grade 3- Mrs. Claus

We are back in action! I am so glad to be back in the classroom with your children! Coming back to routine is great for a bunch of us.

Bible: We started our new unit before the break. We are studying the unit titled Settling the Land. Israel has some work and battles to engage in before they can make Canaan their home.

Math: Today we started our next unit on Mental Math.

Science: We are going to continue our unit on space. We will review some of the things from before the break at the beginning of the week and carry on.

Language: We are focusing on the ambiguous vowels OU and OW. Our spelling words are: out, how, show, cloud, clown, glow, round, down, crow, mouth, growl, plow

Grade 4 and 5 - Mrs. Delleman

Math - We are finishing up our unit on multiplication and will have a quiz on FRIDAY. Students will need to know their multiplication tables, how to complete 2-digit by 1-digit multiplication, estimate, and answer multiplication word problems. Smartboard notes and reviews will be sent home on Thursday to help students prepare for the quiz.

Spelling - We will be working on different spelling teams this term. Below are the new team names and their spelling lists:

- **Trio Spelling Team**- bride, globe, blouse, grass, block, bridge, bubble, groceries, blade, glass, grill, bricks, bread, blanket, grasshopper, glue, blindfold, glove, brush, grapes
- **Dynamite Spellers** - froze, coach, show, toe, slow, globe, shoe, blow, grow, whose, snow, roast, doe, throw, hoe, foe, close, oat, mow, know, wrote, roam, loaf
- **Word Crushers** - soon, good, cool, crook, fool, wood, could, noon, groom, hoof, root, stood, smooth, hook, troop, route, hoop, should, brook, stool, proof, shook, would, gloom, roost
- **Spelling Chipmunks** - cattle, model, final, pencil, level, April, total, marble, angel, novel, fossil, metal, pebble, nickel, oval, travel, special, vowel, signal, journal, angle, evil, until, local

NEXT FRIDAY, we will have a dictation where 10 words from each lists will be chosen. If you go to spellingcity.com/tdelleman, students will be able to access their lists and play games online using their words.

I Know It - due FRIDAY - "Multiplying 2-Digit by 1-Digit Numbers"

Grade 4/5 and 6 French- Ms. VanKampen:

Bonne Année tout le monde!

In light of the two-week break, we will do some level of review this week on numbers, calendar-related vocab, colours, weather, etc. We will then move on to a grammar unit on use of Question Words (i.e. who, when, why, where, what, how, which, does, etc.).

Grade 5/6- Mr. Siebenga

...and blessings to you and yours as we journey into 2023!

In the classroom:

We were able to wrap up many of our units, tasks, and assignments before the break! Thank the Lord! :) We will start anew in **Biblical Studies**. Over the next couple months, we will be investigating Judah: the collapse of the Kingdom, the last Kings, and the prophets that the Lord sent to warn the people of their ways. Then we will shift to the faithfulness that the Lord showed his people. He fulfilled His promise to return some of his chosen people back to Jerusalem. We will be studying some old testament books, Jeremiah, Isaiah and Ezra as the rebuild is carried out. Pray for his Spirit to guide the questions, and new understandings that are formed.

In **math**, a new structure will be used. I hope this also helps parents better understand what is happening, while also enabling students a greater opportunity to monitor their own work / homework, and ask more specific questions within a smaller peer centered group. I will meet with five different groups Monday - Friday, depending on the day. Here are the group names with the Days of the Week. Ask your student which group and day they will "small group" with me. We will begin with measurement. Both will tackle linear measurement first. Then Grade 6 will deviate to mass, while Grade 5 looks at measurement of Time. This two week unit will help structure math a little better, and help work through any logistical tweaks that need to be adhered to. A formative assessment is planned for all groups on Friday of this week, and the summative next week Friday. Following this unit, we will move on to Fractions.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
#1	AA	5 Ample	American Muscle	WAMP

Spelling has restarted with new lists for this week. These are also up on the Google Classroom in their respective folders.

In **reading**, we will pick up our Novel "From Anna." We left off with Chapter 8, so this week the students will be responsible for reading chapters 9-10. Formative Google Form quizzes will be used to reinvigorate the students to our story, as will literature circles with particular jobs for each student dependent on their role within the group.

In **science**, we will be looking at energy. This will revolve around the use of energy in our lives, the creation of electricity, our use of this gift, and our conservation of energy and using the gift of electricity as stewards to best suit the needs of our ever changing world.

Passion Projects are making a return in the new year. More details on these as the weeks progress. For those that were not in our class last year, in a nutshell, these are presentations that the students will give about a particular topic that is of interest to them, a passion, per se. The students will work on creating questions that lead them to do independent research on their chosen topic, plan a particular way to present their findings with their peers, and orchestrate the presentation.

Memory work:

"I wish my people would listen to me!

I wish Israel would live as I want them to live!

Then I would quickly bring their enemies under control.

I would use my power against their attackers."

Psalms 81:13-14 (New International Reader's Version)

Grade 7/8 Science- Ms. VanKampen

As we continue our unit on Heat, we will do a brief review of Conduction and then proceed to the other two methods of heat transfer: Convection, and Radiation. A formal assessment will also occur including an exercise requiring students to identify the heat transfer method(s) associated with a particular [real life] scenario. Hoping to then deal with Electromagnetic Radiation.

Grade 7/8- Mrs. Vogel

Welcome back! I'm excited to be welcoming the students back again today and to begin with a fresh mind and hopefully restored energy.

Bible - We are going to be working through the rest of our lessons on Paul and the letters he wrote and missionary trips he took. We will learn about some of the struggles the early church went through as they grew and had more gentile believers join the faith.

Healthy Living - Students are reminded to bring gym clothes and unscented deodorant for class on Wednesday's and Friday's. Please keep the unscented part in mind as I have a strong sensitivity to highly scented products. Thank you.

Writing - Students will be working through a variety of small activities and renewing the knowledge of cursive writing as we employ it more through the next number of weeks.

W.W.W. - Unit 7 Work due and Test on Friday, January 13.

Guided Reading - We are continuing to read the novel Refugee by Alan Gratz as a class and working through activities and questions based on the reading.

Geography - We are continuing our current unit of study.

French - After a quick review on Monday, we will be working through some more French grammar and learning how to write more about ourselves and using full sentences and proper French pronunciation.

Library - A reminder that our class library time on on Wednesday and students need to return their library books in order to take new books out. Also, a number of books from our classroom library have gone missing I would love to have them back. If you have any classroom books (either with 7/8 or Miss Dykxhoorn/Mrs. Vogel written in them) I would love it if they would make it back on the shelf. Thank you.

Grade 7/8 Math- Mr. Boelens

This week we will finish off our short Geometry unit. The test will be early next week. Daily homework will continue to be assigned.