

From the Principal's Desk...

A Christian's Grief and Hope

With heavy hearts, we mourn the passing of Marcel Koersen, who tragically lost his life in a car accident. Our grief is deep, and we lift up Kelly and her children in prayer during this incredibly difficult time. While the pain of losing Marcel feels overwhelming, we are reminded of the promises of God, which provide us with both comfort and hope.

As Christians, we understand that grief is not a sign of weakness, nor does it diminish our faith. Grieving is a natural response to the loss of someone we love, and the Bible encourages us to mourn, for "the Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit" (Psalm 34:18). God sees our sorrow and draws near to us in our pain.

In the midst of our grief, we also find peace in the hope that we are given in Christ. We do not grieve as those without hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13). We have the assurance that Marcel's life is now secure in the arms of Jesus, and he has received the eternal reward promised to all who trust in Him. Jesus tells us in John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am." Marcel is now with the Lord, surrounded by His love, peace, and eternal joy.

As we grieve with Kelly, we also celebrate the truth that Marcel's death is not the end. It is but the beginning of a new chapter in his eternal story with Christ. We rejoice in knowing that God's promises are true, and that through the resurrection of Christ, we, too, will be reunited with our loved ones one day.

Helping Children Navigate Grief

As a family faces loss, it is important to remember that children, too, will experience grief—but they may express it differently than adults. Children may not always have the words to describe their emotions, but their feelings are just as real. In the midst of this sorrow, there are ways we can help guide them through the process of mourning.

- 1. Encourage Open Conversation:** It is important to give children the opportunity to ask questions and express their emotions. Keep the lines of communication open, and let them know it's okay to feel sad, confused, or even angry. Use age-appropriate language to explain what has happened, and let them know that their feelings are normal.
- 2. Affirm Their Emotions:** Grief is not a linear process, and children may experience a range of emotions, sometimes even in one day. Reassure them that it's okay to cry, be angry, or feel scared. Let them know that God sees them in their pain, and He is with them through it all.
- 3. Maintain Routines:** While it is important to give space for grief, maintaining familiar routines can provide children with a sense of security during this time of uncertainty. Regular meals, bedtime routines, and time with family can help anchor them as they process their loss.
- 4. Model Faith and Hope:** Children look to the adults in their lives for guidance on how to cope with loss. In times like these, we can model a faith that remains rooted in God's promises. Encourage children to pray, express their sadness to God, and remember that death is not the end. Marcel's life has not been lost; he is in the presence of the Lord, awaiting the day when we will all be reunited.
- 5. Seek Support:** Grief is a journey that often benefits from the support of others. If you notice a child struggling or retreating into themselves, consider seeking professional help or joining a grief support group.

In this time of sorrow, let us not forget to hold fast to the hope that sustains us. The apostle Paul writes in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Though death separates us for a time, it cannot sever the love of Christ that binds us together.

So, while we weep with those who weep, we also rejoice in the promises of God. Marcel's life and the faith that he lived serves as a testimony for others. We pray for comfort for Kelly, the children, and all who are affected by this loss. May God's peace, which transcends all understanding, guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. We trust that, though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we do so with the One who has conquered death itself, and in Him, we find hope.

Calendar of Events

March

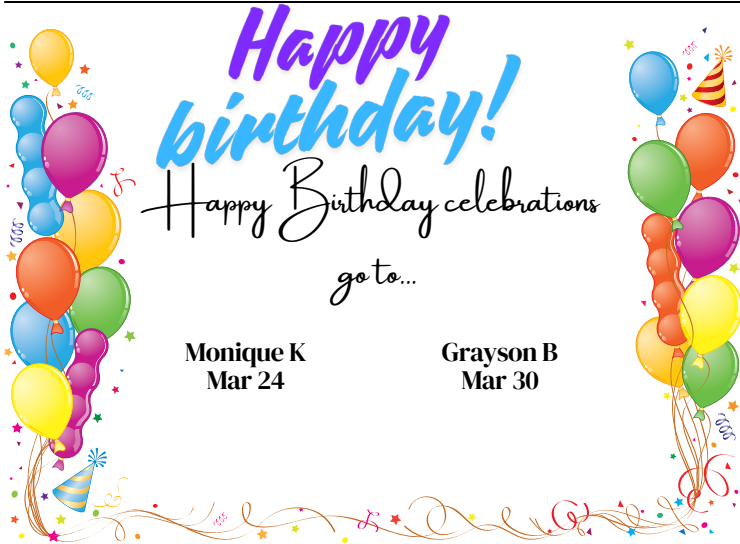
- 24 - Musical Choreography practice - **Lunch recess**
- 24 - Musical Rehearsal - Lunch Recess - Scenes 4 - 5
- 26 - Hot Dog Day
- 26 - Musical Rehearsal - After School until 4:30pm - Scenes 4 - 5

April

- 1 - Dental Screening - JK, SK, Gr 2, Gr 4, Gr 7
- 2 - Open House & New Family Registration - 10 am - noon and 7 pm - 9 pm
- 4 - Theme Chapel - Earth Keeping
- 4 - Immunization Clinic - Grade 7
- 7 - Badminton Tournament
- 9 - Pizza Day - New Orleans
- 10 - Battle of the Books - Kitchener
- 16 - Hot Dog Day
- 17 - Easter Chapel
- 18 - **Good Friday - No School**
- 21 - **Easter Monday - No School**
- 23 - Grade 8 Graduation Photos
- 23 - Pizza Day - Dominos
- 23 - Spring Membership Meeting
- 24 - Spring Online Auction Opens - **9am**
- 24 - Sip & See Auction Event - 6 - 9 pm School Gym
- 25 - Online Auction Bidding Closes - **9pm**
- 26 - Auction pick up - **10am - 1pm**
- 30 - Hot Dog Day



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Prayer & Thanksgiving

Please keep the following items in your prayers over the next week

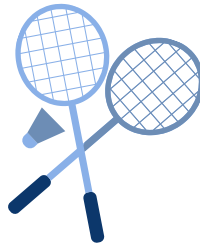
- Our deepest sympathies and prayers for Kelly, Marcus, Jolene, and Ben and extended families with the passing of Marcel.
- Rejoicing with the Kappers family with the birth of a new baby girl.
- Rejoicing with Mrs. Casadio and her family with the safe arrival of their new little daughter.
- Continued prayers for Ashley and Hailey Gurnick and Theo and Diana VanderGaast as they work through their stages of grief over the loss of Matt



Please note that Pastor Cam was at the school last week and made himself available to chat with or pray with students who were struggling with the news of Mr. Koersen's death.

Basketball players -
PLEASE RETURN
YOUR JERSEYS!

SPORTS NEWS



Badminton

The Badminton Team has been selected and is posted on the board. The tournament date is **Monday, April 7th at Woodland**.

Practices will be **Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at lunch recess**.

We will require three parent drivers for the Tournament. If you are available please let the office know.

MINI STICK TOURNAMENT

There were sixteen teams in our recent mini hockey stick tournament. We had a round robin tournament where points were given for wins and ties. Eight teams moved on to the quarter finals.

We were able to hold the final championship game this past week and the **West Bus Warriors** (Cohen, Jacob, Reid) beat the **Butt Kickers** (Hudson, Gabe, Caleb) by a score of **2-0**. It was an exciting game and was close until the last five minutes.

The winning team received the honour of writing their names on our own "Stanley Cup" made by Jacob and Reid.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JONAH'S DRUTHERS

Musical Rehearsal Schedule

Monday, March 24
Lunch Recess - Scenes 4 - 5

Wednesday, March 26
After School - Scenes 4 - 5

Monday, March 31
Lunch Recess - Scenes 6 - 7

Wednesday, April 2
After School - Scenes 6 - 7



JONAH'S DRUTHERS

Musical Choreography!

Miss D is looking for a choreography team for the Musical!

If you are interested in being a part of the team please come **Monday March 24 at Lunch** recess to the Music room.

Be prepared to come and learn a few counts of the introduction song for the audition. The team will then be chosen and lunch practices will happen after that.

This is for anyone in **Grades 1-4**.

See you there!



Classroom News

JR Kindergarten

Junior Kindergarten - Mrs. Baarda

This week we will continue in our Nursery Rhyme theme and read some nursery rhymes and poems including Itsy Bitsy Spider and Twinkle Twinkle Little star and we will be making some star art.

In **language** this week we will continue to blend and segment words, practice rhyming and listen for beginning and ending sounds.

Our mystery letter last week was letter **J**. We learned that jacket, jet, jellyfish, jam, jar and Janaya all begin with the letter J! We completed a letter find page for upper and lowercase Jj and learned the Jolly Phonics song for this letter.

In our **workbooks** we will print letters **a, d** and **g** and then review these "**magic c**" letters.

In **Bible** we will read about "The Greatest Commandment" to finish off our unit on parables. Then we will begin our Easter unit and learn about Palm Sunday and The Lord's Supper.

In **math** we will continue to explore numbers by playing number bingo and by counting, and printing numbers,

In **health** we will continue to work on our unit about our five senses. We will be making a Five Senses Booklet as we explore each of the senses.

Tuesday is library day. Please remember to send in any library books in the reusable bags so students can bring home their new choices.

Senior Kindergarten

Senior Kindergarten - Mrs. Heida

Last week it was good to be back in routine and it was amazing how much "work" SK completed. I am very proud of them. Thank you to all the parents who helped out with our HIDDEN TREASURES show and tell. A lot of fun was had by all!

This week we will focus on the short vowel **Ee** sound as in egg and elephant. During our learning centers we will be focusing on identifying and printing the ending sound, rhyming and matching upper and lowercase letters.

In **math** we are counting to 80, reviewing the concept of 1 more and learning what two numbers make a total of 5. We will be introduced to adding small numbers using objects and pictures.

In **Handwriting Without Tears** we will learn how to print lowercase **i** and **e**. Lowercase "i" is very easy, lowercase "e" is much trickier. It is called a middle start letter meaning you start going across from left to right in the middle of the lines and you travel up, over and around. We are learning how to print sentences using an uppercase letter for the first letter, putting space between the words and using punctuation. We are printing our names with the awareness of where the letters belong between the lines, above the lines or below the lines. The students are making tremendous progress.

In **Bible**, we will be learning about The Last Supper and the Garden of Gethsemane. We are singing Shout Hosanna and Lord, I Lift Your Name on High.

This week we will wrap up our Dr. Seuss month with reading Yertle the Turtle, learning to draw a turtle, guessing the number of fishy crackers that are in the jar, reading 1 Fish, 2 Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish and completing a craft, and making a wocket for my pocket.

On **Monday** and **Tuesday** please return your library books!

Have a great week!

Classroom News

Grade 1

Grade 1 - Ms. Denhartog:

Math: This week in math we are finishing up counting by 5s. Please practice counting by 5s from 5-100 at home. This week we will count by 2s and then try skip counting backwards by 5 and 2!

Language: In our UFLI program this week we will work on words that have "ce" but say the "s" sound, as well as words that have "ge" but say the "j" sound.

Heart word review practice: *who, by, my, one, once*

Social studies: In our social studies unit this week we will talk about the different roles that other people play in our lives.

Health: In our new health unit, we will be talking about our body development and how God created our body unique and one of a kind.

Wednesday: Library

Friday Show and Tell: For the month of March *Something green or two items that are opposite (something big/small; black/white etc.)*

Friday March 28: Timothy Michael, Ruby, Isaiah, Kaylee, Karissa, Serena

Friday: Spelling test

Grade 2

Grade 2 - Mrs. Grundlingh:

Math - Number sense: We are working on odd and even number patterns.

Phonics, spelling and reading: This week we will look at graphemes that spell the long **o** (spelled with vowel team oo and also with u) and the long **u** (spelled with vowel team oo) sounds. Please see the homework practice sheets and spelling words going home today to help the students practice these phonics. They write their spelling words in their agendas, but please check that they spelled them correctly. Spelling test on Friday with Mrs. Kuipers.

Social studies: We focus on communities and sustainability.

Bible: We continue our unit on Easter. Our Bible verse for March: *"Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures."* - Psalm 119:90

Health: In health we continue looking at healthy development.

Library: We have library day tomorrow. Please remember to send their library books back in their Ziplock bag to keep our library books from getting wet. Please send back their library books even if they would like to renew it.

Grade 2

Grade 2 - Mrs. Kuipers:

As I look back on this past week, I of course see grief, but I also see so much Christian love and community. I sit here grateful for the open honest hearts of kids and the kindness classmates show each other.

Math - We are starting a unit on Financial Literacy. A Roll & Say game will be coming home today to help practice and get familiar with coins. Please discuss coin names and values whenever you can at home!

Science - Last week we discovered that God planned the Earth with so much detail, including the water! We enjoyed creating a cloud in a cup and making it rain. This week we will look closely at the water cycle.

Scholastic Order - Final call for scholastic orders. You can order online at Reading Club - <https://bookclubs.scholastic.ca/> - and use our class code of **RC149184**.

Spelling

Yellow/Red: book, cook, bush, full, spoon, tooth, food

Blue: cooking, firewood, bush, fuller, toothbrush, classroom, bathroom

Heart words for everyone: floor, poor, door, won, son

Classroom News

Grade 3

Grade 3 - Mrs. Claus

~ This information will be emailed to you ~

Grade 4

Grade 4 - Mrs. Delleman:

I Know It - NO Assignment this week since we have our math quiz.

Math - We have finished a unit on fractions. Students should be able to name fractions, add and multiply fractions, compare and order fractions, find fractions of a set, and answer word problems on fractions.

Memory Work - This year we are working on memory work as a whole school. The following verse will need to be memorized by FRIDAY - "Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures." - Psalm 119:90

Spelling - The teams are listed below and are also on spellingcity.com/tdelleman if students would like to practice their words online. Students will need to know all their spelling words, but only 10 are chosen for dictation. Dictation will be FRIDAY.

- **Rocket 87s** - wait, read, need, beast, toast, wheel, sheep, leak, coast, trail, zoom, three, neat, moan, sheet, scoop, rail, cheek, pea, throat, loop, cream, sail, booth
- **Kool Erasers** - out, how, show, cloud, clown, growl, round, down, ground, brown, owl, found, shout, rough, frown, gown, mouth, plow, south, glow, town, count, through, crow
- **Rockin' Writerz** - sturdy, thirty, person, firmly, nervous, burger, perfect, further, dirty, hurry, birthday, circus, spirit, mermaid, Thursday, hermit, turtle, thirsty, birdbath, serpent, furnish, during, every, purple

Grade 5

Grade 5 - Mrs. Tenorio:

Looking forward to more days filled with sunshine as the weather gets warmer and we move from Winter to Spring.

Bible - This week we are continuing our unit on the Sermon on the Mount. Our memory work is due on Friday, March 28.

Memory Work - Psalm 119:90

Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth, and it endures.

Language - This week, we are continuing our novel study on "*The Magician's Nephew*" by C.S. Lewis. Each week, the students will read 2 chapters of the book at home, complete a summary question, and we will work on the worksheets to help with comprehension at school. We are working on comprehension questions for Chapters 9 - 10 this week and will continue in Chapters 11-12 next week. Please read chapters 11-12 for March 31. For spelling, we are working on a new sort and will have a spelling test on Thursday, March 27. Additionally, please remember to bring your plastic bag for your library books to protect them from any potential damage, as we've had issues with leaking water bottles. Library day is on Wednesday!

The Final Spellers - AR, ARE, AIR Owen, Gerrit

Part, start, harm, sharp, dark, shark, chart, care, rare, stare, square, bare, fare, hare, spare, hair, fair, pair, chair, stair, bear, heart, pear

The Spelling Burger Bombs - Unaccented final syllable (-er, -or, -ar) Blair, Kiley, Daniel, Ria, Jasmine, Henrik

Other, mother, weather, sister, silver, under, father, flower, spider, brother, colour, doctor, favour, error, mirror, motor, rumour, tractor, harbour, dollar, collar, solar, sugar, grammar

The Spelling Legend Strawberries - Initial Hard and Soft G and C Bella, Dayna, Peter

Center, circle, century, cyclist, cider, gentle, gymnast, giraffe, genius, gender, ginger, correct, common, contest, college, custom, collect, cavern, carbon, gather, gossip, gallon, garage, gutter

The Spelling Duo - Vowel Alternation: Long to Short or Schwa Kirsten, Pacey

Volcano, conspire, serene, divine, volcanic, conspiracy, serenity, divinity, compete, define, admire, custodian, compose, invite, reside, oppose, competition, definition, admiration, custody, composition, invitation, resident, opposition

Creation Studies - Last week, we made bridges to withstand weight, and the results were surprising! The students did an excellent job working together to create strong bridges that could hold multiple different weights. We are continuing in our unit of Forces on Structures and will be completing a few hands-on activities this week.

Grade 5 - Math - Mr. Tenorio:

We will continue our unit on transformational geometry. The students have shown a good understanding of the topics, so we will be ready to move on to the next unit soon.

Classroom News



4e Niveau: Madame Van Kampen:

* Unit: *L'hiver* (= Winter). →Plans: * students will be sharing (i.e. reading aloud) their written descriptions for the snow-figure drawings they created. * we will be reading through a brief summary of what someone might wear for a cold, wintry day and complete the accompanying image. Students will then draw & colour an image of oneself in winter garb and complete an accompanying description.

5e Niveau: Madame Van Kampen:

* Unit: *L'hiver* (= Winter). →Plans: * students will be sharing (i.e. reading aloud) their written descriptions for the snow-figure drawings they created. * we will be reading through a brief summary of what someone might wear for a cold, wintry day and students will then draw & colour an image of oneself in winter garb and complete an accompanying description.

6e/7e Niveaux: Madame Van Kampen:

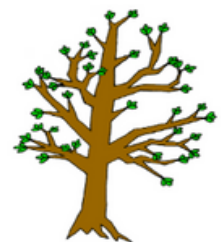
→Plans: * Grammar: we will be beginning a unit on adjectives (les adjectifs) focussing on the different meanings as well as the masculine and feminine forms.

7e/8e Niveaux: Madame Van Kampen:

→Plans: * Grammar: we will be beginning a unit on adjectives (les adjectifs) focussing on the different meanings as well as the masculine and feminine forms.



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Mais
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Dieu
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Classroom News

Grade 6 & 7

Grade 6 & 7 - Mrs. O'Boyle:

Weekly Highlights:

1. Kicked off a new Bible unit by exploring New Testament letters and writing personal reflections on their meaning today
2. Investigated series and parallel circuits through a fun, hands-on "human circuit" simulation
3. Discussed Anne's growth in *Anne of Green Gables*, focusing on themes of sacrifice, maturity, and devotion
4. Practised using vivid verbs, adverbs, and prepositional phrases in our Sentence Showdown grammar game
5. Celebrated Weston's birthday with pizza and wrapped up the week with Crazy Sock Day fun!

Though this week was filled with meaningful highlights and engaging learning, it was also marked by moments of grief, deep conversations, and heartfelt prayer. In the midst of it all, our classroom became a place of real connection, where students supported one another with compassion, honesty, and grace.

Language - In reading, we will begin a new novel study on the *Chronicles of Narnia*. In writing, we will begin to work on narrative stories for a different audience - children. In grammar we are looking at simple, compound, and complex sentences, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, verb tenses and subject-verb agreements. Watch for spelling activities coming home this week in your child's agenda.

Spelling Test - Apr. 7th

The Bills - Sort 34 - work, word, sword, worm, world, worth, worse, wore, swore, worn, war, warn, warm, swarm, wart, warp, dwarf, swear, wear

Grimace Spellers - Sort 22 - needle, season, meter, fever, freedom, meaning, eastern, people, feather, leather, heavy, pleasant, sweater, steady, healthy, succeed, supreme, compete, defeat, even, extreme, fifteen, thirteen, repeat

The Goats - Sort 52 - sunny, slowly, happily, quickly, rainy, clearly, snowy, easily, foggy, misty, safely, quietly, stormy, loudly, angrily, closely, chilly, cloudy, windy, noisily, breezy, roughly, lazily, smoothly

The Doorknobz - Sort 57 - succumb, subconscious, supplant, supplies, suburban, suffer, suspense, digest, suspect, subjugate, diffident, support, digress, diffract, successive, subdue, supplement, diffuse, suffrage, suffix, difficult, suppress, sustain, susceptible, succinct, suffocate, subversive, subcommittee

Cursive Snack - Remember to practice your letter and bring your snack on the following dates.

V - Malakai - Mar. 26th

W - Zack J. - Mar. 26th

X - Weston - Apr. 2nd

Y - Carson - Apr. 9th

Z - Natalie - Apr. 16th

Bible - We will continue our unit on Letters to the Church. We will look specifically at First Thessalonians: Live as God's Children (1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 5:12-28), First Thessalonians: The Return of the King (1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11), and First Corinthians: Solving Problems in the Church (1 Corinthians 3:1-9; 5:6; 10:1-17), First Corinthians: The Spirit of the Gifts of the Gifts is Love (1 Corinthians 12-13), Second Corinthians: God's Treasure in Jars of Clay (2 Corinthians)

Memory Work - Your faithfulness continues through all generations; you established the earth and it endures. Psalm 119:90

Grade 6 & 7

Grade 6 & 7 - Mrs. O'Boyle:

Science - We will continue our unit on Electrical Phenomena, Energy and Devices. We will complete a simple circuit STEM lab where we will explore the following questions: "Can you name some devices that use simple circuits?" and "Why are simple circuits useful in these devices?" We will look at conductors, resistors, and insulators and answer questions such as, "What materials do you think allow electricity to flow easily?" and "Why might some materials resist the flow of electricity?" and we will conduct a conductors and insulators experiment looking at "Why is it important to know which materials are conductors?" and how we might use this information in our daily life.

Health - We will continue our unit on Healthy Eating, consolidating our learning from last week, and will write a short quiz.

Art - In art, we will be looking at actual texture. **Grade six** will continue actual texture scapes and **grade seven** will continue actual texture creatures. Students are reminded to bring any useful materials from home for this project.

Students are asked to pick one of the Mar. sketch prompts or come up with their own idea to complete this week. They may complete it on any piece of paper. Their sketch is due Thursday. Sketch prompts are posted to Google classroom and are posted in the classroom. .

Art quiz on material covered on the Mar. sketch prompt pages will be on **Mar. 27th**. Please take time to thoroughly review your notes so you are prepared.

Library - We will have library every week on Wednesdays. Please remind your child to pack their books.

Grade 6 & 7 - Mr. Tenorio:

We will continue our unit on transformational geometry. The students are grasping the concepts well, and we will be ready to transition to the next unit soon.

Grade 6 & 7 - Mrs. Vogel:

Band: We continue to learn and practice. We spent some time working on dynamics and how to listen to each other so we have a unified sound instead of each person playing their own solo. Continue to encourage your child to practice at home or take advantage of the practice spaces available at school.

Geography: As we look at another looming election, we will try to finish as much of this unit as we can before the election side tracks us again. It is a privilege to be able to learn about both major parts of the voting system (provincial and federal) in one year and we will be taking time to learn about the federal election and the process and how the two major elections are different from each other. I do hope that we will be done with our current unit in the middle of April and will be looking at a test mid to late April.

Classroom News

Grade 7/8

Grade 7/8 - Mrs. Vogel:

W.W.W.: All groups will have their work due and a test on Friday.

Writing: We have almost finished our Great Canadian Adventure. I will be going through the Adventure one more time and turning it back to the students so they can make their final, final copy. Students will be working on a bigger project that will be combined with Guided Reading in the coming weeks that includes a lot of writing and editing.

Guided Reading: Quiz on pages 152-216 today. We will start reading the next section of the novel today and the reading and questions need to be done by Thursday.

Geography: As we look at another looming election, we will try to finish as much of this unit as we can before the election side tracks us again. It is a privilege to be able to learn about both major parts of the voting system (provincial and federal) in one year and we will be taking time to learn about the federal election and the process and how the two major elections are different from each other. I do hope that we will be done with our current unit in the middle of April and will be looking at a test mid to late April.

Band: We continue to learn and practice. Students were given some new music last week and more new music to come this week. They look to be quite fun arrangements and there is some excitement for how these pieces will sound once they have been practiced and learned. Continue to encourage your child to practice at home or take advantage of the practice spaces available at school.

Grade 7/8

Grade 7 & 8 - Mr. Tenorio:

Math: We will continue our unit on transformational geometry. The students are demonstrating a strong understanding, so we will be ready to move on to the next unit soon. Additionally, we will begin learning the format of the Gauss Math Contest so that students who are interested can participate.

Science: We have just started our unit on the environment.

Bible: We will continue our study of *Between the Testaments*.

Grade 7 & 8 - Mrs. O'Boyle:

Health - We will continue our unit on healthy eating by consolidating our learning from last week.

Art - In art, we will be looking at actual texture. **Grade seven** will begin working on actual texture creatures and **grade eight** will create actual texture before and after pictures. Students are reminded to bring any useful materials from home for this project. Students are asked to pick one of the Mar. sketch prompts or come up with their own idea to complete this week. They may complete it on any piece of paper. Their sketch is due Thursday. Sketch prompts are posted to Google classroom and are posted in the classroom.

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