



October 2021 Newsletter

I cannot believe how quickly the first month has gone by! It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the students, staff, and parents of Sunnyside School. It is clear to me that this is an amazing place for children to learn and grow. The entire community has been so kind, friendly, and welcoming - I definitely feel like a Sunnysider already!

I wanted to thank parents for their patience as we adapt to the ever-changing Covid-19 protocols. Your kindness and grace towards us as a staff as we navigate this time is much appreciated. I really appreciate how helpful everyone has been in keeping Sunnyside a fun, active, and safe place for everyone.

A huge thank-you to the parents who came out to our first School Council meeting in September. We had a great turnout and some awesome conversations about how to continue growing Sunnyside as a school. A friendly reminder that everyone is welcome to attend, even if you didn't attend the first meeting. We would love to hear from you! Our next meeting is scheduled for 3:45 on October 6th.

Please plan for a pumpkin festival sometime later on in the month of October. As a staff we will be selecting a date to celebrate all the growing, harvesting, and Fall fun we have had! Please watch for some communication going home about this later in the month.

It is a wonderful privilege to be the principal of this school. The support has been overwhelming, and I can't wait to see all the amazing things that your children are going to do this year. The teachers and support staff here have been absolutely amazing - embracing the outdoors, planning awesome activities, and going the extra mile for your children. Please know that your children are in excellent hands when they come to school!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me. You can call the office or email me at mitchell.vandyk@pallisersd.ab.ca. I love talking to parents, so please reach out if you need anything!

Have a great October!
Mitchell Van Dyk



October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Terry Fox Run	2
3	4	5	6 Parent Council Meeting Google Meet @ 3:45pm Rocks & Minerals Webinar- Gr. 3/4 Classes	7 Kindergarten Fire Safety Presentation	8	9
10	11 Thanksgiving - NO SCHOOL	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Kindergarten Halloween Celebration	29 Gr 1-6 Halloween Celebration	30
31						

Ms. Pascal-Kindergarten News

Our month has been focused on helping our young learners adjust to the transition of school days. Our class has been learning all about apples, routines, healthy habits and our own names! It has been an exciting month of establishing routines, and expectations while learning songs and learning to socialize with our peers. Our main theme was apples! This theme guided our learning activities and allowed for us to work on growing our understanding of school in a fun manner.

In kindergarten we start our mornings outside in nature. We had many scavenger hunts during our outdoor wellness times and spent time learning to appreciate nature and the different trees that make up our school yard. We are continuing to work on our sensory awareness of nature and how it can benefit our learning. Our class spent our outdoor time doing many activities such as: nature walks, stretches, leaf rubbings, chalk drawings, and morning singing.

This month in our early literacy we focused on name awareness and the letters which make up each of our names! We worked on printing our names, building our names and identifying our names. Each morning students work on learning to print their names with correct upper/lower case letters, as well as building their names out of blocks and various natural objects (leaves, sticks, pine cones etc.). We have also been working very hard on our poem reading and class singing.

In math we started our sorting unit. We practiced sorting apples and various other manipulatives by color. We will continue to work on sorting while learning how to explain our sorting rules. We have also started our numeracy awareness with rote counting daily and numeral identification exercises.

In social studies we are focusing on our "I am Unique" unit. We have started to look at things that are unique to us and what that means. We have just begun our 'affirmative words' exercises in class. This is a time where students look at themselves in a mirror and have to say something about themselves starting with the phrase "I am...". This is a great opportunity for children to realize we are all different but we all have wonderful attributes.

In line with our apple theme, our class had the opportunity to experience making their own apple sauce from start to finish. We peeled, cut, cored, and mashed the apples into a delicious snack.

In all it has been an extremely busy month in Kindergarten! Keep your eyes peeled on ClassDojo for the upcoming October newsletter to see what is happening in our classroom!



Mrs. Klassen- Gr. 1/2 News

What a wonderful start to the year we have had in grade 1/ 2! Each and every day we are building stronger relationships, running hard, playing hard and learning lots. This amazing weather has allowed us to be outside as much as we can, and the kids love it!

Outdoor Learning- We spend at least an hour outdoors at the beginning of the day, and often go out again later in the day. This month we continue to explore the changing of seasons, plants and animals, and observe the cycles around us. Our daily walks are an opportunity for students to build friendship, connect to nature, sing songs, and share stories. The mornings are almost always cool, so please remember to dress in layers...thin gloves are a great idea for October mornings. Once the snow flies, please send your child in snow pants and winter gear.

Reading: Our book bins are full and we are off on our reading adventures! Whether learning letter sounds or discovering new titles, we are building our reading lives one page at a time. I hope all families can find time to read together for enjoyment... find a comfy spot and read to your child whenever you can!

Writing: Our kids have so many stories from their own lives to write about and in October we will continue to work on these beginning writing and printing skills.

Math: Patterns are everywhere and we are identifying, extending and making patterns. We are also working on building our number sense all the time in grade 1/ 2. Later in October your child will be asked to bring in a collection of small items for sorting and counting, such as buttons, coins, etc...I will keep you posted!

We are looking forward to a fantastic October ahead!



Mrs. Slusar- Gr. 1/2 News

Wow! What a stellar start to the school year! I can hardly believe we have already put in one whole month of school. The students have come to school eager and ready to learn and our weather has been truly amazing!

We begin each morning outside with Land-based Learning, and what a pleasure this has been for us this month. The children have had the opportunity to explore every corner of our school grounds and have identified purple asters, milkweed plants and pods, kochia weed (that turn into fun tumbleweeds), crickets, grasshoppers, abandoned bird nests and the list goes on. We have been reading and learning about the Land Acknowledgement and have had many discussions and stories during First Nations Week.

We are well into our Reading Workshop lessons and spend each day reading from our book bins, doing phonemic awareness, a word work program as well as a new addition of Secret Stories. Please ask your child if they are able to tell you any of the vowel secret stories. It is a fun, story-based program that helps children crack the reading code.

In Math I am using the Jump Math program this year which consists of lessons and activities. The focus for both grades this month has been Number Sense. They have learned a couple of Math games as well: Jack and the Beanstalk (similar to Snakes and Ladders) and the card game War. We will continue to learn many math games throughout the year.

Thank you parents for all you do at home to help your child. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at the school or send me an email.

Mrs. Mona Slusar



Mrs. Henderson- Gr. 3/4 News

Hi Everyone! I hope this finds you well. I cannot believe that September is over! I guess time really does fly when you are having fun! And, oh, what fun we are having!!!! As we adjust to getting back into routines and schedules, we are having a ton of fun learning. Take a peek at a few of our highlights!!



- **Math:** Numbers, numbers, numbers!!! We have been studying numbers by practicing skip counting, place value, standard form, expanded form, number words, etc. Grade 3s must know and work with numbers up to 1000 while Grade 4s will work to 10,000. Along with our daily math lessons, we have been spending a lot of time playing math games. Try challenging your child to a game of "Higher or Lower" or "MVP" (Most Valuable Place)!
- **LA:** We are focusing on reading and writing nonfiction or informational text this term. Our focus right now is looking for the main idea and supporting details and writing "How To" paragraphs. In addition, we have word work and a class read aloud of "Katie Kazoo Switcheroo" by Nancy Krulik on the go.
- **Social:** We are currently working on a mini mapping unit. Students are learning about the world around us by looking at the continents, oceans and Canada as well as basic mapping skills.
- **Science:** Students have been excited to share their rock collections from home as part of our Rocks and Minerals unit.
- **Art:** We are exploring the Elements of Art with a focus on the colour wheel right now. Needless to say, each of our projects is filled with amazing colours!!
- **Wellness/PE:** Students are spending almost 2 hours every day outside exploring our school yard and activities that make them feel well.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your entire family.

Have an awesome October!
Jan Henderson



Mrs. Hudey- Gr 3/4 News

Greetings from the Grade 3/4 classroom!! We are off to a terrific start! We are enjoying the beautiful weather, reconnecting with friends and settling into a new routine.

Here's what we are working on:

Language Arts:

We are busy filling our book boxes and searching for excellent reads!

We are focusing on self-monitoring and making predictions.

In writing our focus has been on building 'super' sentences and paragraphs using a variety of expressive words.

Math:

Our first unit is Number Sense and Place Value.

We are learning to write and express numbers in a variety of ways. Standard form, written in words and expanded form. Using whiteboards and card games, students are having fun practicing their math skills!

Social Studies:

Our first unit has focused on basic map skills. *'Where in the world are we?'* We have learned about the oceans and continents.

Science:

Students are loving the Rocks and Minerals unit. We are looking forward to our first virtual field trip with a certified gemologist!

Art: Students have been learning about color and creativity. The Grade 3/4 "Kind is Cool" mural is a masterpiece!

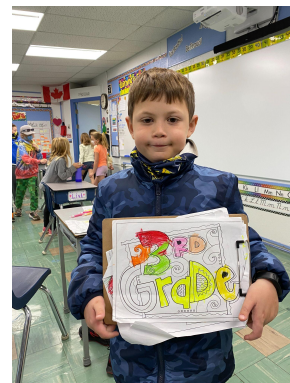
Wellness/PE: Students have been playing outside and exploring our outdoor spaces.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me:

Sunnyside School - 403-327-9214

Email: lynnell.hudey@pallisersd.ab.ca

- ★ Thank you to Mrs. Hancock for helping us set up our digital library accounts.
- ★ Thank you to Ms. Koopmans for extra care from the office!
- ★ Thank you to Mrs. Roth for making Sunnyside clean and shiny!



Mrs. Jesse- Gr 5/6 News

Wow! Where has the month of September gone?! It has been a busy, exciting month getting to know each other and the new "Mrs. Jesse" routines for the 5's! The grade 6's have sure given the grade 5's lots of great advice on how to "succeed" in Mrs. Jesse's class 😊.

In Math, we will be finishing up our first unit on Place Value of both whole and decimal numbers. We will likely have a cumulative review of all lessons just before Thanksgiving. I've encouraged students still struggling with these concepts to practice saying both large and small (decimal) numbers at home. We have also covered rounding and basic addition and subtraction questions.

In LA, we are just finishing up our first units in reading and writing. Both units focused on reading and writing workshop expectations and plenty of practice time. Students are already reading for 25 minutes in class with little difficulty, and have completed three writing assignments (one visual, one poem and one proper paragraph). We will be starting our narrative unit next week.

In Social, we have focused on politics and the election as well as Reconciliation. Students have impressed me with their political knowledge and passion for the topic. I was also blessed to be a part of heartfelt conversations regarding hot topics such as Covid-19, racism and of course Orange Shirt Day. Students demonstrated repeatedly their compassion and respect for these big topics. We are moving onto mapping next week.

In Science, we started the year with many fun engineering challenges to think like scientists, test our ideas, and work as a team. We then dived into our first topic, which is wetlands and students have completed their first research project. We will continue this topic throughout October.

Finally, in art students have completed their first art project and they turned out beautifully. Here is a quick picture of their final project (we are missing a few, but they are almost done and will join the pack).

