



December 2021 Newsletter

It's the most wonderful time of the year!

I can't believe it is already the Christmas season. What an awesome year it has been so far - and the first few months have just flown by! I hope that everyone is looking forward to a fun and festive season.

As a school, we are going to be celebrating the month of December with a number of spirit days and fun winter/Christmas activities. If you haven't received the "12 days of Christmas" document, please let us know. The activities are also outlined on the calendar that Ms. Koopmans created on the next page.

I would like to celebrate this holiday season by sharing my gratitude with you.

- I am so grateful for the opportunity to be the principal of this school. Thank-you especially to you, the parents, who have been so warm and welcoming! Even though I haven't been able to meet you all in person, the many phone calls, meetings, and emails have been so supportive and kind. Thank-you!
- Thanks to the staff of Sunnyside School. I can't believe how dedicated the staff is to ensuring a welcoming, friendly, positive, learning-focused environment. I have seen many staff members donating their time to ensure something gets done, I have seen teachers staying late and coming in early, I have seen all staff members being willing to do extra for our students. What an amazing team we have here!
- A thank-you to the students. They have been incredible so far this year. They are so committed to being winter and weather warriors - I have been blown away with how they embrace the outdoors! As I read their report cards, I was also impressed by how engaged our students have been in their schooling - whether it is their academics, wellness, outdoor learning, sports, or other activities. Great job!
- Thank-you to everyone who participated in the Kernels popcorn fundraiser. Together as a school, we raised over \$4,000.00 for Sunnyside! Amazing job everyone!
- If you haven't seen it already, we have the outdoor rink ready to go - we are just waiting for the cold weather! I've attached a picture below.

As many of you know, this can also be a difficult season for people who are experiencing tough times. I hope that, as a school, we can celebrate some Christmas cheer and have a great month of December before we head out on Christmas holidays. If you ever need anything, please don't hesitate to reach out - especially if this might be a difficult time of year for you or your child.

Thank-you for your continued support of us here at Sunnyside. We are so grateful to have the opportunity to work with your children every day!

Mitchell Van Dyk





December 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Dress in red & green Christmas Tree Raffle Kick Off School Council Meeting 3:30	2 Wear reindeer antlers Classroom Winter Walks	3 Wear crazy Christmas socks Bring a non-perishable item to donate to the food bank	4
5	6 Wear a winter scarf Mini Volleyball 3:30-4:45 Decorate classroom doors	7 Wear your jingle bells Decorate ornaments	8 Dress like an elf Mini Volleyball Tournament- 2:00-4:45	9 Dress like a Christmas Tree Fire pit & Hot Chocolate outside	10 Dress like the Grinch	11
12	13 Wear a santa hat Make Snowflakes	14 Dress in Red and white Outdoor Christmas Carols Christmas Tree Raffle	15 Jersey Day	16 Ugly Christmas Sweater Day Turkey Dinner	17 Pajama Day	18
19	20 NO SCHOOL	21 NO SCHOOL	22 NO SCHOOL	23 NO SCHOOL	24 NO SCHOOL	25 
26	27 NO SCHOOL	28 NO SCHOOL	29 NO SCHOOL	30 NO SCHOOL	31 NO SCHOOL	

Kindergarten News- Ms. Pascal

Wow, how is it December already? This past month flew by in our classroom. We spent the month focused on storytelling and learning our fairy tales! The children were delighted to reenact the stories with their own variations! We have wonderful actors in our class!

We spent our outdoor wellness time exploring different myths and tales of how various animals came to be. This included activities such as: snow sculptures, chalk drawings, hunting for animal tracks, going on 'bear hunts', making pine cone porcupines, and learning about traditional natural paints. The children enjoyed our outdoor adventures and are really growing a true sense of wonder and curiosity! I cannot wait to see this continue to grow throughout the year.

During our early literacy time we focused on rhyming, popcorn words and continued letter awareness. We are continuing to work on building our fine motor skills and hand stamina through playdough, crafts, and various 'centers'.

In math we continued our pattern unit and worked on more focused numeracy awareness. The class is doing exceptionally well with patterns! They are spotting them daily in our language and in the world around them! I am excited to see how these patterns become more complex this next month! Our class is still working on our number sense and learning to subitize! They have enjoyed pattern blocks, card games, puzzles, matching and many more hands on math games.

In social studies we are moving into our "I belong" unit. We have spent time figuring out how we are unique and now we are beginning to see how we all fit together. The students are eagerly sharing their 'All about me' posters and we are enjoying getting to know our peers better! I cannot wait to see the rest of the posters!

November felt busy and full of fun but I cannot wait to see what December brings for our class! We are gearing up for lots of fun festive activities and lots of hands-on learning!



Grade 1/2 News- Mrs. Slusar

From snow angels on November 1st to tumbleweed races the last week of November, the Grade 1-2 class have had lots of outdoor experiences.



Students completed 5 reading missions and received the Word Detective Badges this month!

Grade 1/2 News- Mrs. Klassen

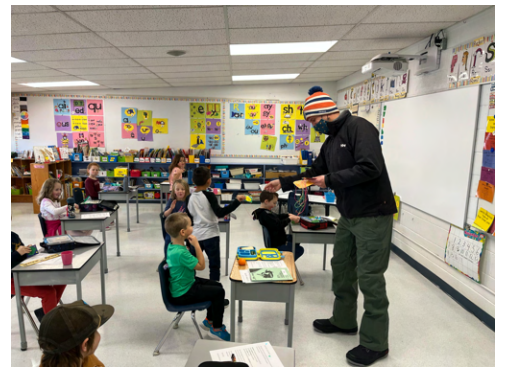
November has come and gone in a flash! From gorgeous frosty mornings to the howling wind, we have made the best out of every moment! Take a look at some of the best moments from the past few weeks...



Tumbleweed races and tumbleweed kites!



Our whole class is proud to be official "Word Detectives!" Thanks to Mr. VanDyk for presenting our badges!



Celebrating
our
writing!

Gratitude: for the beautiful trees planted by the Sunnyside Community Association years ago. We call this place "Elm Trail" and walk here every day! How lucky we are!





Seasons Greetings from the Grade 3/4J Classroom!



Wow! Yet another month has flown by at record speed. It's hard to believe Christmas holidays are just around the corner. Here's a quick description of what we've been up to this month.

Math: We are reviewing and practicing our basic addition and subtraction facts and applying these skills to adding and subtracting large numbers (Gr. 3 up to 3-digit numbers and Gr. 4 up to 4-digit numbers). Practicing these adding and subtracting skills at home would be great. Just ask about some of the games we've been playing!

LA: Reading - Students are taking part in a variety of reading activities including independent reading time, reading groups and class read alouds. For our class read aloud we just finished Jerry Spinelli's Third Grade Angels and Fourth Grade Rats. A Katie Kazoo Christmas is up next! **Writing** - Students are writing an "All About Me" booklet.

Word Work - We continue to work on our phonics, vocabulary, and spelling skills.

Social: We continue to learn about the quality of life in Peru, Tunisia, Ukraine and India.

Science: We are wrapping up our Rocks and Minerals unit by learning about the Rock Cycle.

Art: This class LOVES ART!!!! From Autumn Cubism to 3-D art, they have been creating some fabulous pieces as you can see in the photos below.

Thank you to all that took part in Parent-Teacher Interviews. I appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to chat with me. When you have a moment, please sign the Report Card envelope and return it to school with your child.

As always, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me.

I hope you and your family have an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs. J. Henderson



Grade 3/4 News- Mrs. Hudey

We are looking forward to the countdown to Christmas! We have 13 festive and fun days planned!

Here's what we have been working on:

Math: We continue to represent and express numbers in a variety of ways. (Grade 3's - up to 1000, Grade 4's up to 10,000) We have also been practicing addition and subtraction with regrouping. Students have been solving problems using a multi-step strategy. Please continue to practice basic facts 0-18 at home with your child.

Language Arts:

In Reading, everyday students have the opportunity to participate in a teacher led leveled guided reading group. Students are enjoying the small group activities to practice accuracy, fluency and comprehension skills. Our class read aloud is the award winning novel "The Wild Robot" by Peter Brown. We all look forward to hearing the next chapter:)

In Writing, students have been working on building interesting sentences and transitioning to paragraph writing. Students researched information on bats, then incorporated their favorite facts into a well constructed paragraph. Complete with opening sentences with HOOKS, three detailed facts and a concluding sentence.

Social Studies:

We continue to compare and contrast the cultures of four countries. Peru, India, Ukraine and Tunisia.

Science:

We continue to work on Rocks and Minerals. This month we have been learning about the properties of soil.

Art:

Students sketched and painted a tree reflecting the transformation of seasons. The students did an AMAZING job-- their work is stunning!! This month we are excited to embark on a Christmas Card Connection project. Students will be making cards that will be delivered to Seniors in our community. I am proud of the thoughtful effort I am seeing in their original card designs!

Gratitude:

- ★ Thank you to Mrs. Hancock for helping support students in Grade 3/4. We appreciate your kindness!
- ★ Thank you to Mr. Van Dyk for helping us with Guided Reading Groups.
- ★ Thank you Ms. Koopmans for your extra care, art advice and ice packs!



Grade 5/6 News- Mrs. Jesse

December!! Yippee! This is always my favorite month in the classroom. I love the stories, the excitement and ALL the activities that take place here at Sunnyside. If you have not had the chance to look at the December calendar of events, please be sure to do so. We are hoping for lots of great school spirit and participation this year. It is a short month, but we have lots planned.

In Math, we are moving on to our multiplication unit. For grade 5's this will be looking at all the different strategies available to help them tackle multiplication questions. Students will be excited to share different techniques and will hopefully share their success with you at home. Practicing at home will help students gain confidence in the classroom. The grade 6's will also be focusing on identifying multiples and factors of numbers up to 100. They will also be working with integers and orders of operations.

In LA, we are finishing up our narratives and look forward to a Christmas themed celebration of writing sometime next week. In reading, students are asking to read for longer bouts of time and more challenging texts. Students are identifying various sentence types in both their novels and their own writing, and they are taking risks with punctuation. We will be moving into persuasive texts and writing before the holidays. I am encouraging all students to read at home.

In Social, we are starting our first research project on the Regions of Canada. Students will research and create 4 different projects on the 4 different regions of Canada. Students will use art, technology, writing and building skills to complete these projects. They may need materials from home (in January) to help them with their creations - an email will follow closer to the date. They will be sharing their findings with peers and will at the end of the unit use this information to create a persuasive advertisement for the best region in Canada.

In Science, we have started our next unit: Weather. We have lots of neat experiments and projects planned to help us understand these concepts. Students have been asked to watch/seek out the weather forecast frequently throughout this unit to help clarify their understanding.

Finally, just a reminder that we will be participating in a Secret Santa gift exchange. If you did not receive the email about this, please let me know.

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday season! I am always thankful for the support and kind words I receive from Sunnyside parents! Thank you for all you do, and please know I am grateful for you and your children. Hoping you enjoy a relaxing holiday with family and friends!

