



February 2024 Newsletter

Happy February! I hope the start of 2024 has been good for you and your family. The weather sure has been interesting - but we love all kinds of weather here at Sunnyside!

First off, I wanted to say a huge thank-you to all the parents who sent in notes of gratitude. I have been reading them every morning to the students and I think it's been great for them to hear things that you are grateful for! If you haven't had the chance to send something in, please feel free to send me an email with your note of gratitude for our morning announcements. One thing that I am grateful for is the hard work that our students have been putting into our sense of responsibility and belonging. Everywhere I go I see students working hard to make good choices - cleaning up the playground at the end of recess, showing kindness to others, and working hard to learn and grow!

About a week ago I emailed some information about the Assurance Surveys from Alberta Education. If you have a child in grades 4,5, or 6, you should receive a code in the mail, along with instructions for how to fill out the survey. This survey is really important to us as a school - it helps us determine what we are doing well and what we can improve on. If you could please take 10 minutes to fill out this survey, we would greatly appreciate it! If you haven't received a code in the mail, please send me an email and I can help you out.

One of the things we have been working on for the last six months is crafting a new vision for Sunnyside School. In the Fall, we held a visioning evening for parents, staff, and students, where we discussed what it means to be a Sunnysider, what our school stands for, and what we hope to be in the future. As a staff, we have taken those results and started crafting it into a draft vision document. Sometime this month, I hope to send it home to parents for feedback. I hope that the vision is able to encapsulate all the great things about our school, as well as our dreams for how it will continue to positively impact the lives of your children.

Lastly, I want to give a shout out to our wonderful Community Association. There are so many great parents who work hard to invest in this community. Last Thursday, we were able to go skating because of their fundraising efforts. We will also get the opportunity to skate twice more. We are also putting together some of the final touches on our greenhouse plan to hopefully have it built sometime in the Spring. These are just a few examples of the amazing things that their fundraising dollars go towards. So, a huge thank-you to all of the amazing parents who volunteer, fundraise, and donate their time to making Sunnyside a better place for all kids!

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please reach out - call the school or send me an email. I always love chatting with parents about their child's growth and learning!

Thank you for the privilege of being the principal of this school. It really is a joy!

Mitchell Van Dyk



February 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Skating at the Labor Club	2	3
4	5 Hot lunch Spaghetti & Meat Sauce	6 Mini Basketball Assembly 8:45 am	7 School Council Meeting @ 4PM	8 Skating at the Henderson ice rink Mini Basketball	9	10
11	12 Hot lunch Chicken Burger	13 Mini Basketball Grades 1/2 Pavan Park	14 	15 Mini Basketball	16	17
18	19 No school for staff or students	20 No school for staff or students	21 No school for staff or students	22 Teachers Convention No school for Students	23 Teachers Convention No school for Students	24
25	26 Hot lunch Lasagna	27 Mini Basketball	28	29 Mini Basketball	Looking Ahead.. Grade 5/6 ski trip to Castle Mountain March 7	

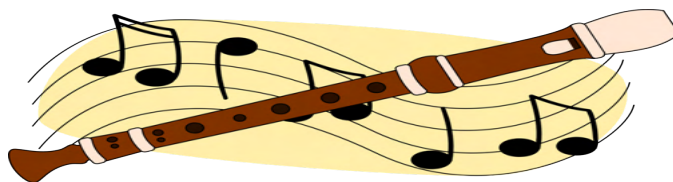
Music/Fine Arts



I hope you enjoyed Sunnyside's version of Star Bucks, the Musical. Students were diligent in learning their lines, songs and choreography and were so excited to show off their hard work to family and friends. Thank you to those who were able to attend, as well as the parents who helped decorate and bake amazing treats for the bake sale. Sunnyside is a special place!

I am hoping to get our recorder unit for grades 3-6 started shortly. This is a friendly reminder that recorders can be purchased on School Cash Online for your child at a much more affordable price than if individually purchased at a music store or online. Thank you to those who have purchased already. If you already own a recorder, would you please send it to school with your child (labeled with their name), so I can organize our classes in preparation for the unit? Thank you!

Mrs. Hass



Learning Commons



SCHOLASTIC
open a world of possible

Scholastic Book Delivery to the school is back!

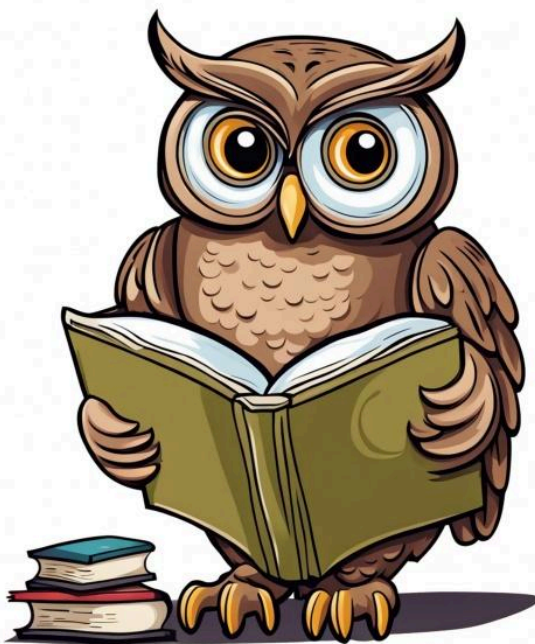
Your child will be receiving Scholastic flyers every 2 months . The January/February one is due Feb.9th. Instead of sending the order form and money back to the school, it is ordered and paid for online then shipped to the school. This process allows for the shipping fee to be waived if cumulative orders reach \$40.

To order online:

Go to scholastic.ca/bookclubs and place your order. Fill in the class code **RC192287**. This ensures that your child's class gets the reward points and that the order will be sent to the school.

Happy Shopping!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me,
Mrs. Hancock



Sunnyside Early Learning Program

This month we had a great time learning about hibernation, migration, and what is winter. How do animals stay warm in the winter? Do they fly somewhere warm? Or do they find a warm place to sleep? And why we need winter clothes to keep us warm, but animals don't. We discussed how animals need fur, feathers, and fat to keep warm. In our early literacy center we read *The Mitten* by Jan Brett, and *The Napping House*. We started our transportation theme.



Kindergarten News

January

It was a busy month of growth in our classroom. We enjoyed reading many stories and practicing how to read with our reading buddies in grade ¾. We practiced writing words and exploring new letter sounds.

As we moved into our study of groups, we spent time exploring other cultures and seeing the similarities and differences we share.

In math, we took time exploring printing our numbers, practicing our turn-taking skills through playing new math games, and learning our friends of 5.

In science, we explored the five senses and seasonal changes.

Along with our learning in the classroom, we also got to go skating, play outside, paint and go on our nature walks. It was a busy month and I am excited to see the growth we make in February.





Grade 1/2 News – Mrs. Slusar

We are off to a great start to 2024! The students have been busy working on small moments stories, reading daily from their book bins, collecting and reviewing data in math, and learning about responsibility. We look forward to spending more time on some of these subjects for the month of February as well. The students have enjoyed daily walks searching for footprints in the snow, playing in the snow as well as skating. We will be skating again on Feb. 1 at the Labor Club from 10:15-11:15 and then again on Feb. 8 at Henderson arena from 9:00 - 10:00. Please join us if you can.

We are scheduled for Pavan Park Feb. 13 from 9-12. Please let me know if you are interested and able to help us on this day.

We will be having a small Valentine's Day celebration on February 14. Students are encouraged to write a Valentine card for every student in the class. They love opening the cards and reading the messages from their friends. We will be doing that the afternoon of February 14th. The students should have come home with a class name list.

Students will be off for the week of February 19-23 due to Family Day and Teacher's Convention.

Thanks to the Davies family for gifting the classroom some pliers and screwdrivers. The students have been loving taking apart old cameras, remote controls etc and seeing how they were put together. If you have any items you are just disposing of and are ok with the students taking them apart, please send them to school with your child.

Thank you for all of your support! Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Mrs. Mona Slusar



Steam



SKATING

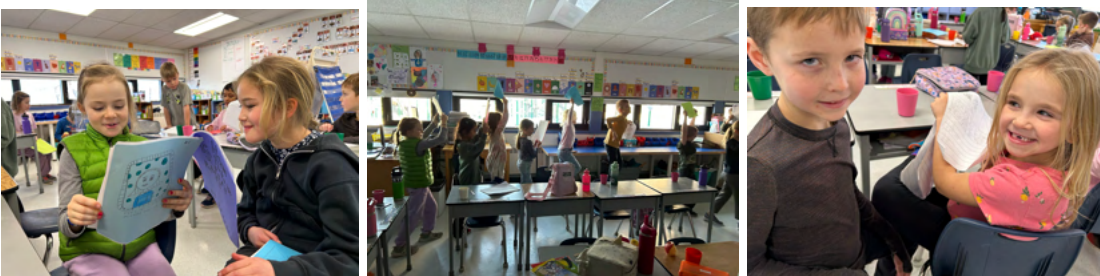


Grade 1/2 News – Mrs. Klassen

Here is a look at what we have been up to in grade 1/2!



January did not stop us from getting outside and being active all month long. Skating, sledding, looking for tracks, and weathering the cold is what we do! It has been so great to see all the amazing snow gear and enthusiasm for being outdoors.



We have finished off our “How-To” writing unit, and celebrated by sharing our books with friends, hot chocolate, and a dance party! Our current unit of writing is “Opinion Writing” where we will continue to develop foundational writing skills as we express our own ideas and opinions about our favourite things!



In Science we have been exploring matter: what it is, how we can alter it, and different ways to measure it. We are also keeping a close eye on the movement (energy) of animals by investigating tracks in the snow whenever we can!

We continue to read each and every day and it is fantastic to see the love for reading grow and grow. We are also looking closely at vowels: reviewing their short sounds, and exploring long vowels and their spelling patterns too. Reading to your child each day is a fantastic way to keep their love for books growing!

This month in math we are exploring data (surveys, graphs, and depicting information in visual ways). It has been so much fun to survey each other and ask questions about our favourite activities, food etc. We also continue to build number sense and addition and subtraction skills all the time. February will mean a return to looking at mathematical patterns, both visual and numerical.



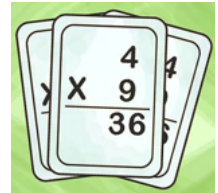
Happy February Everyone!

What's New in Grade 3/4J

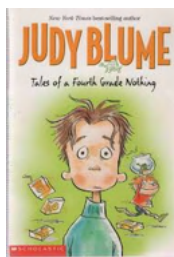
How can it be February already?!? It is baffling how quickly time flies. We have been very busy here at good old Sunnyside! Along with our usual day-to-day activities, classes, outdoor time, etc. we have had the opportunity to see amazing Indigenous dancers and to go skating. How exciting!!!

Here's a few things we've been working on here in 3/4J:

Math: In Math we wrapped up our Fractions unit. Fractions proved to be a challenging topic especially when it came to comparing fractions and equivalent fractions. Manipulatives were definitely a tool we used regularly. We are now on to multiplication. This will prove to be another challenging topic as curriculum outcomes have changed. Grade 3s are expected to know their basic facts up to 10x10, while Grade 4s must master facts up to 12x12. I encourage as much practice at home as possible.



LA: Reading: We are currently reading works of fiction and focusing specifically on the elements of a story (character, setting, plot, theme, point of view, etc.) For our class read aloud, we have started the "Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing" series by Judy Blume. We are enjoying hearing about Peter and his little brother, Fudge. We are also reading with the Preschool classes once a month! **Writing/WW:** Our current focus is descriptive writing. We are striving to choose more powerful words and to add details to our writing. This will lead us nicely into Narrative writing. In Word Work, we are learning how to properly add suffixes to words.



Science: We are looking at how the earth changes. Topics discussed so far include layers of the Earth, plate tectonics and gradual changes including mountains, glaciers, valleys, riverbeds, and deltas. Sudden changes are up next!

Social: We continue to explore various aspects of Peru, Tunisia, India and Ukraine. We are wrapping up quality of life, traditions & celebrations, landforms & regions and adapting to the environment. Next up is Goods and Services.

Art: In Art we are looking at the elements of shape, form and space through cartooning. Students are having a blast creating a variety of cartoon characters!

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Happy Valentine's Day and enjoy your February Break! 😊

Mrs. J. Henderson

Better Synonyms for 'happy'		
content	satisfied	perky
elated	thrilled	peppy
delighted	rapturous	buoyant
glad	tickled	frolisome
joyful	jolly	excited
jubilant	light	hopeful
ecstatic	gleeful	flying high
blissful	gay	light-hearted
euphoric	merry	high-spirited
thrilled	overjoyed	walking on air
bright	cheerful	on cloud nine
pleased	blessed	on top of the world
positive	chipper	



February 2024 – Grade 3/4 – Mrs. Hudey



Hello from the Grade 3/4 class! We have had a fantastic start to the New Year! We have enjoyed a busy month of learning and connecting with friends! Here's what we've been up to this past month!

Reading- We are working on improving our reading stamina and comprehension strategies. We are enjoying our class read aloud "Bat and the Waiting Game" and buddy reading with the Kindergarten class!

Writing- We are writing descriptive paragraphs focusing on detail, vocabulary and editing skills. Students have been practicing their typing skills and typing out assignments when completed. Well done!

Math- Students are practicing their multiplication facts with games, problem solving and task cards.

Science- We are working on our "Earth Systems: Changing Earth" unit. Students finished a research poster explaining sudden changes like an earthquake or a volcano.

Social Studies- We are learning about Peru- comparing elements of city and country, language, culture and traditions.

*This month we wrote messages of hope and kindness on coffee sleeves for local coffee shops to help spread joy in the community. The students did an amazing job!

*The Grade 3/4 class has enjoyed skating with the whole school at the local rink!

*We enjoyed an Indigenous presentation and dance on January 23.





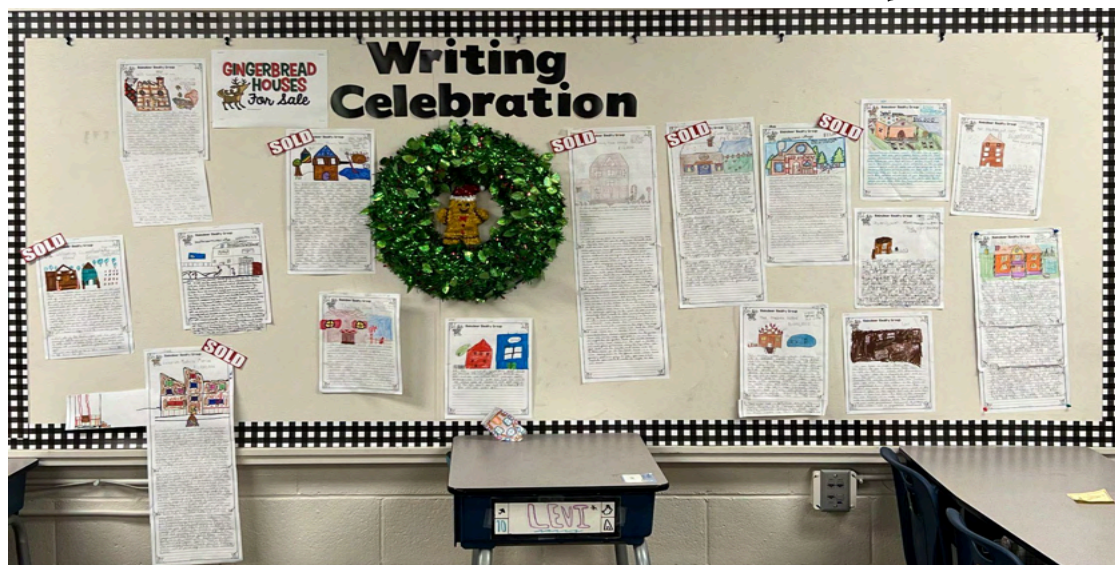
Grade 5 News – Mrs. Hass

Welcome to 2024! I hope all our grade 5 families had an amazing Christmas break spending time making memories with family and friends. Despite the unexpected weather interruptions, it has been so nice to see students again and get back in the swing of things.

In Science, we are continuing to learn about series and parallel circuits in our electricity unit, and students are busy building many different circuits with switches, lights and motors. We had a Scientists in Schools presentation before the break all about circuits. We will have some STEM challenges building classroom alarms, small vehicles and designing games to wrap up this portion of the unit, before looking at magnetism and measuring electricity.

In math, we have completed our unit on multiplication and division. We have looked at solving equations using the standard algorithm, rounding and estimation to see if answers are reasonable, as well as solving word problems involving mathematical vocabulary. February will be spent learning about fractions.

In Writing, students completed a descriptive writing unit before Christmas that culminated in designing a Gingerbread House for Sale. Students focussed on strong vocabulary to create imagery in the reader's mind. They also had to draw their gingerbread house, based on their descriptions. Staff read the real estate listings and chose houses they would like to "buy," based on the writing criteria. Houses went into a draw and Crue was the lucky recipient of a gingerbread building kit to take home over the holidays. Congrats, Crue! January has been spent reviewing Cursive writing to use in letter writing as well as etiquette for email correspondence.



In Reading, we have been building stamina and fluency. We have been challenging ourselves to read more complex texts. We have been using our speaking and listening skills in Reader's Theatre Trickster Tales, and students are really getting involved and loving this.



Around the Classroom



We thoroughly enjoyed spreading Christmas cheer to other classrooms by caroling around the school.



Secret Santa gift exchange



Writing kindness notes with the Grade ½ class

Grade 6 News – Mrs. Jesse

Another month has flown by! This month we have really worked on our collaboration skills and our ability to work responsibly in a group setting!

To conclude our book clubs, students created a board game to summarize and show their group's understanding of their novel. We then played each other's games to celebrate our hard work.



To conclude our Regions of Canada unit, in small groups students created a diorama of their region and are now working on creating their final region in Minecraft.



And finally in science, students have participated in many small group experiments focusing on electricity.



