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**OCTOBER 2021 NEWSLETTER**

Wow! Fall is officially here! The Grade 3/4 class has had a great first month of school. We have hit the ground running! The Grade 3/4 class has been busy with reading, writing, and mathematics, those important 3R’s. Our Home Reading Program will begin shortly once all students have been tested. Students should be spending 10 - 20 minutes a night reading. It is extremely important to give students an opportunity to practice the reading strategies that we learn in the classroom. Our goal is to help students become proficient, enthusiastic readers and to develop a love for reading.

**READING STRATEGIES**:

Along with making reading a priority, it is important to share with you things that will add to your reading experiences at home. These experiences are important and are being developed at school, too.

#1. **Picture Walk -** Prior to reading a book, it is encouraged to do a picture walk of the book. This involves going page by page through the book to see what is happening, who the main characters are, and where the story took place (setting). Such a picture walk helps a young student to build the story in their head before they read it so when their brain is searching for new vocabulary, they can match it to print on the page.

#2. **While Reading -** Books may be read by your child, by both of you, or by you to your child. When your child is reading by him/herself to you, encourage the use of finger pointing to develop the correspondence of what is said to what is in print. This reduces the memorized text and builds sight vocabulary. As the stories become more complex, this will be reduced if not eliminated. Next month, we will explore ideas about what to do when your child comes upon words, he/she does not know. Please realize that some of the home-read books may need some assistance from you especially when they first go home. Remember your child is learning to read and it is important to make this a fun and exciting time together.

#3. **Follow-up -** After reading the book, discuss the setting of the story (the various places it took place), the main characters, and have your child retell the story in proper sequence (beginning, middle, and end) using his/her own words. These strategies help to build the comprehension of the text.

Reading is a very complex activity and working with reading at home will only help your child’s success at school.

For the month of October, we are focusing on the **writing trait** called **IDEAS.** A paper with good ideas and content is clear and focused. It holds the reader’s attention. Ideas are the heart of the message in writing. To write well, it is important for us to really know about our subject. It is either connected with our own experiences or else we have researched the topic thoroughly.

In **Math** we are now focusing on our numbers (Number). Grade 3’s; representing, comparing, and ordering whole numbers to 1000 and composing and decomposing 3-digit numbers. And (Data), collecting and analyzing data. Grade 4’s; representing, comparing, and ordering whole numbers to 10,000 and demonstrating an understanding of place value in whole numbers. And (Data), graphing information and analyzing data.

Writing:

Students are encouraged to have a **home writing journal** so they can record their thoughts and ideas and practice writing skills. They are encouraged to begin each sentence with a capital letter and use only lower-case letters for all other letters and to place a period at the end of their idea. This will build confidence in their writing and make them want to write. Have fun!!

A big thank you to all students. With new protocols in place, most students have done a great job keeping their masks on during class time and either washing their hands or hand sanitizing when necessary. Please remember to send face masks that properly fit our little ones. A few students need consistent reminders to wear masks over their noses and to keep their hands away from their faces. Please provide children with an extra mask in their backpack in case its soiled or misplaced. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students and St. Theresa’s community safe.

I have included a list of webpages as many parents were asking about web sites, they can access at home to reinforce the skills we learn in the classroom.

**Some great websites are**:

Getepic.com – class code – exx1583

Raz-Kids – kids’ login – Timberwolves1

abcya.com

funology.com

seussville.com

starfall.com

storylineonline.net

readtomelv.com

tumblebooks.com

nationalgeographicyoungexplorers.com

oxfordowl.co.uk

ixl.com

mathplayground.com

coolmath4kids.com

funbrain.com

primarygames.com

mathville.com

Classroom Schedule:

Gym is on day, 2 and 5 (It is a good idea that indoor shoes are **running shoes** so that children are always prepared for DPA (Daily Physical Activity) and for comfort. Please make sure that if lace up running shoes are sent in that the student knows how to tie them up. Thank you.

We will also have access to computers for learning in various subjects.

**(Students will also need to bring in their Headphones for computer use, thank you)**

Please visit the school website for important dates to remember. Brightspace (D2L) will also provide up to date information about events and/or classroom activities. Please continue to use my email to share information or communicate ideas. I want all my students to be successful and in turn make our classroom a positive environment where learning is respected and expected.

In keeping with our safe school policy, if you wish to acknowledge your child’s birthday please ensure that it is not with a food item. Some great alternatives to sweet treats are stickers, erasers, and pencils.

NB\*

1. I am asking that jewelry not be sent to school as the students play with it instead of leaving as an accessory.
2. That toys be limited to only outdoor activities; many students are sneaking them into their desks and it then becomes a focusing issue.

**Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.**

I would like to thank you for your continued support and encourage you to keep in contact by email or phoning the school if you would like to speak about your child’s progress throughout the year or just want to share something great about your son or daughter. Please know that my door is always open, and that on-going communication will give us a foundation for a successful school year.

Yours in education,

Mrs. A. Bosagri-Chevarie