



# MICHAEL A. KOSTEK SCHOOL

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**Grade 1 / Room**



**1 NEWSLETTER**

## **Curriculum News**

We are making the final push towards the end of grade one. Edmonton Public School standardized tests have been done in Language Arts for writing and reading. As we near the end of the school year the children will continue to practice using common word endings and spelling patterns to spell unknown words (ain, oat, ake, ear, adding y and ly, etc.). Reading strategies will continue to be taught so that they become an automatic part of the children's thinking while decoding and spelling. The children will also be learning about less frequently encountered letters like j, q, x, z, and the 3 sounds of y. In Social Studies we are continuing the unit called "Changes in my World". During this unit the children will be learning about communities in the past and reflecting upon family traditions. In Science the children will learn about the needs of plants animals. In Math we continue to learn about addition and subtraction facts, numeration to 100, and exploring measurement. If the weather warms up, many of our physical education classes will be spent outdoors in the soccer fields so please dress your children in appropriate outdoor clothing. We will continue our unit on Nutrition and soon begin a unit on Personal Safety in health class.

## **Instructional Focus Work**

We continue to use good literature as a springboard to writing and during May will read many non-fiction books in preparation for writing a report on an animal. We have looked at story beginnings and endings and sentence "bridges" that make stories flow smoothly. The children continue to assess their own writing to ensure that they understand what is expected of them.

## Spelling

The children will receive their last set of NEW spelling words on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. By this date we will have 125 words on our Word Wall! For the remainder of the year we will continue to practice these familiar words in order to "over-learn" them. During the month of May there will still be spelling tests on Fridays, however, they will be 10 words that already exist on our Word Wall. I will send the list of words I will test from home each Monday.

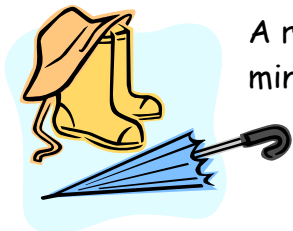
## Rainbow's End Farm Fieldtrip

On Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> all the grade ones will be traveling by school bus to the Rainbow's End Farm, near Thorsby. Since it is an all-day field trip, children will be asked to bring a fully disposable lunch (no thermoses or plastic containers). At school we have a "pack-in, pack-out" policy but for this one day we will ask for the children to bring disposables. We encourage parents to join us on this fun day as many helpers are needed. It will be about an hour each way on the bus so parent volunteers are encouraged to car-pool. **Please watch for a field trip notice that will be sent home soon.**

## Fine Arts Residency with Mrs. Norma Hoppins

We are very happy to be able to participate in drama workshops during the fine arts residency that will be taking place from May 5 - May 9. Each day the children will participate in a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour drama workshop! Please ensure your children are dressed for active participation.

## Dressing For the Weather



A reminder once again that Spring brings puddles and with that in mind I suggest that you pack extra mittens and socks for your child. Waterproof pants or "splash pants" are a good idea for outdoor play and our playground can be quite wet and muddy. Thank you!

## **Scholastic Book Orders**

Scholastic Book Orders are due Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. **If you choose to purchase books through this program, please send a CHEQUE to school made out to Scholastic Canada.** Thank you!

## **May Show and Share**

During the month of May, the children will be asked to make a presentation about a tradition that your family follows. Please help your child think of things that you do every year and that you will continue to do for years to come. Then, please allow your child to select one of those traditions to share with us. It would be of assistance to send along any photos, books, artifacts, food, etc that would help. Thank-you for any assistance you can provide. **A letter will be sent home to provide more information.** Please note the criteria on the reverse side which explains what is expected of the children.

## **Character Education - Resiliency**

For our Resilience Education this month we will focus on Conflict Resolution. We will be learning how to use the following steps to resolve our conflicts in the classroom, or on the playing field at recess:

1. **STOP.** Don't let the conflict get worse. The less angry you are the easier it will be to solve the problem.
2. **SAY** what the conflict is about. What is causing the disagreement? What does each of you want or not want?
3. **THINK** of positive options. How could you meet each other's needs and be fair?
4. **CHOOSE** a positive option each of you can agree on.

If we still can't agree, we will ask someone else (an outsider) to help resolve the conflict.

Have a great May!

Jackie Short

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