



GRADE 3 NEWS – ROOM 7

April 2008

Thanks you to all the families who participated in student led conferences. It was great to see all the evidence of learning each evening! Another HUGE thank you to all the parents who have volunteered over the past 2 months for Pysanky, the Ukrainian Village and Bridges! We just can't do all these things without your help!

Assessment For Learning

Each student had the opportunity to choose samples of their work to fit the target for student led conferences. As a part of the learning portfolio process I spent time with each student individually to create their goal sheet. We looked at where they were in term one and if they had shown growth for term two on the target. Those students who meet their goal came up with a new goal to meet for the end of the year.

Language Arts – Balanced Literacy

In language arts we continue to read independently and are now learning to reflect on the books we read. Students will continue to use Sentence Fluency Criteria after they write each reflection to make sure they are providing the reader with what they think could happen next if the book continued. In guided reading we are now focusing on thinking about the meaning to create a picture in our minds. We will continue to work on questioning using the 5W's and HI.

The Grade 3 Achievement test Part A Writing is on Thursday May 15 at 9am. We will be getting ready for this by continuing to write our stories. We will also have a Field Test practice on Thursday May 8th at 12:40pm.

Instructional Focus Work: Writing to Learn!

We continue to work on our story writing strategies using the techniques of Barbara

Mariconda. After practicing story beginning techniques to describe the setting using juicy words, describing the critical character and using an interesting beginning we made a criteria sheet. Students had to provide evidence if they meet each criteria and make a goal. We then used our goal to revise our story beginnings just like writers do. We are now working on techniques such as building suspense in our story middle. We are learning how to use referents, raise story questions and the magic of 3 by giving hints of the problem. By the beginning of May we will complete the story process by working on extended story endings.

Math

In math we are working on number operations multiplying and dividing numbers to 49. We will be challenging students up to the 11 times tables. We are also working on finishing up our Geometry unit. During on the month of April we will be working on Measurement including, length, area, capacity, time and money.

In Problem Solving we will be working on the strategies Make It Simpler, Work Backwards and Brainstorm. The students continue to synthesize the most important information, solve using the strategy using a number sentence if necessary and writing a word sentence to answer the question.

We have started to prepare for the Grade 3 Achievement Test by practicing problem solving questions that are like the ones on the test every day.

Please continue to practice addition, subtraction and multiplication questions at home. Please use the school website to access math fact sites. The students will have 35 question of each and be timed for 2 minutes for each operation.

This part is on May 13th at 9am.

Social Studies

In Social Studies we have begun learning about the country of Ukraine. So far we know about their culture, the environment and goods and services. By the end of the month we will know about their resources and services.

A big thank you to all the parents who helped out on our Ukrainian Village Fieldtrip! It was so neat to see how Ukrainian people lived in the past in Ukraine.

Science

In science the students are planning to build their own bridge. We made a criteria sheet together as class to determine what we needed to have when building our bridge. After the students get their plan approved they will bring their plan, a list of materials they need and the criteria sheet home to build their bridge. The students will have 2 weeks to complete their bridge and bring it to school. At this time we will see if their bridge meets criteria and test it with text books for mass.

Thank you to all the parents who helped with Awesome Bridges. What a cool hands on learning experience for the students!

Look for a field trip permission form coming soon for the Animal Life cycles Field trip on Tuesday May 20th after the long weekend.

Art

We are connected Art with the celebration of Easter. The students made beautiful pysanku! I was very impressed with all the careful detail. Thanks again to all the parents who helped out! This type of art activity could not be done without you!

Health

We are finishing up nutrition and personal health by learning how to use the Canada's Food guide for healthy eating and snacks. The students did an excellent job completing the Healthy Food challenge!

Gym

In gym we have been focusing on fitness activities where the students have the

opportunity to challenge themselves to do more laps running around the gym or reps of jumping jacks, pushups and sit ups. We will be moving into soccer skills in May.

Character Education

Super Resilience! If you visited our class for Student Led Conferences or for any other event during this past month we hope you had a chance to look at the display case in front of the office. This month we are featuring a few of the heroic, assertive members of the Michael A. Kostek School Community. Our caped superstars are learning how to handle difficult situations. In April, they will continue to practice saying no assertively and asking for help. Two more great skills for our resilient kids!

Our April assembly on the 18th at 9:00 am will highlight these skills. We are very excited to see the work of the grade 6 students who have planned this event with our student teachers. An event not to be missed

Upcoming Events

- **May 8th Practice LA Field Test for Writing**
- **May 13th Timed Math Facts for Grade 3 Achievement Test**
- **May 15th Part A GR 3 Achievement Test for Writing**
- **May 16th No School - Teacher Day in Lieu**
- **May 19th Victoria Day - No School**
- **May 20th Royal Alberta Field Trip for Animal Life Cycles**
- **May 22nd Family Night BBQ**

A special thank you to all the families who helped get their little bugs ready for the performance for the Volunteer Tea. WOW! The costumes were wonderful!!!!!!

Thanks for your support!

Miss K. Kindrakewich ☺

3

