

May 2008 Newsletter  
Grade 3 Room 8

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful turnout for Student-Led Conferences. Your children have worked very hard and are very proud of their accomplishments. Sharing their efforts with Mom and Dad is a wonderful experience for them. Thank you for spending the evening in our classroom.

It is hard to believe that we are already into our third semester of grade three! With only two months left to go we will be extremely busy over the coming weeks.

Writing to Learn - Our School Focus

We continue to discuss the parts of an effective main event of a narrative piece of writing. These important ingredients include action, dialogue, feelings/thoughts of the main character, and description. Literature (**A Cricket in Times Square** by George Selden) was used to show the students how authors use these techniques to create exciting main events. After the main event ingredients are defined and discussed we do a shared write as a class. During the last step the children write their main event independently. We all look forward to our sharing circle when each child has a chance to read his/her main event.

The extended story ending is the last ingredient of a narrative story that we will be working on during May.

**Assessment for Learning** will take place when the criteria of the main event and the extended story ending will be discovered by the students. By following the criteria, students will make sure they are working toward an excellent end product.

### Reading

Spring has arrived, and as the weather improves it will become harder and harder to stay inside after school and get Home Reading done! However, it is very important that your child continue with at least 30 minutes of Home Reading every week night, and some on the weekends. Reading as much as possible is the best way to begin to prepare for our Provincial Achievement Exams.

### Math

We have been working on the last operation of division. We have also started the unit on Linear Measurement. Measurement of time, area, capacity, mass, money, days/months/years and temperature will also be taught.

We are continuing to work on Problem Solving and Basic Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and Division Facts on a daily basis.

### Social Studies

We have completed our work on "Quality of Life" in the Ukraine. This month we will study the country of India as well as Alberta.

### Science

We will soon complete our unit on Testing Materials and Design. Our last unit will be "Animal Life Cycles".

### Character Education

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

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

May 5 - 9 - Fine Arts Residency

May 13 - Math Provincial Achievement Exam - Timed Facts (9:00 a.m.)

May 15 - Language Arts - Provincial Achievement Exam Part A - Writing (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.)

May 15 - Free Pizza lunch for Milk Monitors (whole class involved)

May 16 - Teacher's Day in Lieu - no school

May 19 - Victoria Day - no school

May 22 - Family Night BBQ

May 30 - Stores - Rm. 9 - Mr. Brooks' class sells

June 17 - Language Arts - Provincial Achievement Exam Part B - Reading Comprehension (9:00 - 10:00 a.m.)

June 19 - Math Provincial Achievement Exam - 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

June 20 - Stores - Rm. 7 - Ms. Kindrakewich's class sells

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me at 489-7277 or [elaine.kammerer@epsb.ca](mailto:elaine.kammerer@epsb.ca) .

Sincerely,

Elaine Kammerer