

Roland School Newsletter

In-service Monday April 14th Introduction to Making Classroom Assessment work for Learning

On Monday, April 14 at Carman Hall, Prairie Rose School Division held a divisional professional development day for all teachers, clinicians, student teachers, administration, and educational assistants. Annie Davies was invited to speak on assessment. Unfortunately, Annie Davies was sick that day and unable to attend. We managed to find a very knowledgeable substitute for her in Sandra Herbst-Luedtke from Winnipeg. She has co-authored a book with Anne and she was a dynamic speaker on the topic of assessment. Sandra talked about using descriptive feedback with students that is timely and specific. She also discussed co-constructing criteria with students to get them involved in the assessment process. It is important to brainstorm what the criteria should include, sort and categorize, make a chart, then revise as necessary. From setting the criteria, students can then set their learning goals that specifically fit into what they are expected to learn. Sandra shared some valuable points in "involving students in closing the achievement gap." Our staff came away with some positive ideas to use in our upcoming school plans for next year involving assessment for learning.

Early Dismissal

On Wednesday, April 23 Roland school had an early dismissal. We spent the first part of the time planning our artist in the school for next year, conduct and use of our new walkie talkies when on duty, and a school budget review. The rest of the afternoon was spent on a review of our Healthy Minds Breakfast program. There was a need to re-evaluate this program and begin to plan for our annual school plans for next year. We came up with a Parent survey to get feedback from parents. This parent survey was sent home on Monday, April 28. Please return these surveys by May 2, 2009.

Roland School

April 30, 2008

Special points of interest:

- *Winnipeg Symphony Field Trip—May 13th*
- *Jump Rope for Heart—May 9th*
- *Early Dismissal—May 14th*
- *No School May 19th*

We have a new e-mail address:

rolandschool@prsdmb.ca

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Grade 1 & 2 Classroom Report

This month we have been very busy practicing for our concert, Carnival of the Animals. Costumes have been fitted, backdrops painted, and songs practiced. We hope that our families will enjoy what we have done.

Our Science unit is coming to a close, and this month we have had an entomologist, Mr. John Gavlosky, visit our class to talk to us about his job and how his interest in insects has provided him with the opportunity to have a career! We enjoyed his slide presentation and the 'hands on' materials he brought to share with us. His collection of bugs and insects was very interesting. He even showed us how he traps and 'bottles' them to take them back to the office. It turns out that Mr. Gavlosky is a part-time bee keeper as well. We enjoyed his time with us very much. The students are working on creating an animal 'habitat' that will have the things their animal needs to survive. We hope to wind this unit up shortly.

This month we were thrilled to have storyteller Jamie Oliviero visit our school and share his gift of story with us. Jamie used our Science theme on 'Characteristics and Needs of Living Things' as a backdrop to share stories about animals, people and their interdependency with

nature. Jamie's stories about respect, friendship and survival reminded us about some very important values. Jamie showed the students how to take an idea and develop it into a story. What a perfect connection to our Writer's Workshop process. The time spent with our 'artist' was invaluable. We appreciated the opportunity of having Jamie visit our school and our classroom.



Kindergarten News

Practice makes perfect! We've been practicing VERY hard for our spring concert. Everything is coming together really nicely. We'll be ready for the big production!

We're learning about Community Helpers and have gone to visit the Post Office. We got to mail a letter to Jaime (the artist in the school that visited us) and see where it goes. Behind the counter we got to see many interesting things. We got to see everyone's mailboxes, bags full of books from the library in Carman, the bags that the flyer's come in and how Leslie sorts them into to appropriate mail boxes. We thought the Post Office was very interesting and fun!

Constable Mitch McDonald came to visit us as well on Friday April 25. He came into our class and we got to ask him about being a Police Officer. The most exciting part was when we got to go and see his police car. He turned on the sirens (they were really loud!) and the lights. He also showed us the computer he has in his car. We also got to sit in the back seat, when he closed the door we couldn't get out! Mitch answered our many questions about his job and invited us to come to the detachment in Carman.

April Showers Bring May Flowers! There have been a lot busy readers in the kindergarten room! We have so many tulips up on our bulletin board. It's so wonderful to see, keep up the great work kindergartens!



Grade 3 & 4 Classroom Report

The month of April has flown by and it's hard to believe we only have two months left of this school year! The 3/4 classroom has been busy as always. In mathematics the students have been continuing to build their multiplication and division skills. We have also enjoyed working with fractions, using lots of hands on activities including a snack or two! Fairy tales have been a magical experience in our classroom. We have enjoyed reading various versions of the traditional tales and have begun writing our own fractured fairy tales during writers' workshop. During novel study the students are reading novels based on a fairy tale theme. In social studies we are reviewing Canada on a broad scale looking at the Provinces and Territories, capital cities, and bodies of water. The students are getting ready to do a technology project with their province of choice that Mrs. Kent has helped to prepare. Science is a force to be reckoned with! We are learning about magnets and magnetism; the students are always on the search for objects around us that have a magnet in them. Now that the weather will hopefully be warming up, its time to talk safety! We will be talking about safe play during health and creating posters to demonstrate what the students have learned.



I would like to thank the students in the 3/4 room for helping me come up with some great ideas for healthy snack week and for all their help in preparing and delivering the snack to the other classrooms. Way to go!

Way to go!

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence"

Healthy Snack Week

During the week of April 28 to May 2 the students and staff at Roland School are participating in a healthy snack week. The grade 3/4 class brainstormed ideas and planned all the healthy snacks for the week, trying to incorporate all 4 food groups throughout the week. They have been busy helping Mrs. Benner prepare the snack each morning and delivering to each classroom. *On the menu:* Monday: fruit smoothies and homemade oatmeal muffins. Tuesday: crackers, cheese and apple slices. Wednesday: fresh fruit salad and trail mix. Thursday: yogurt parfaits with fruit and granola. Friday: vegetables and dip.

Grade 5-6 Class Report—Mr. Dennis

Reader's Workshop – It is exciting to see the grade 5-6 students engaged in and enjoying reading the gift of reading. The grade 5-6 student's are developing their reading skills by continually participating in read-a-louds, class literature discussions, responding to one another's journal responses, mini-lessons that focus on skill development, guided practice to practice newly learned skills, daily reading where students read books of their choice, conferencing to reflect on how to improve in their reading, and author's chair. I would like to encourage you to pick a book to read together with your grade 5-6 child. When you are reading read with expressing and stop to discuss what you're reading.

Writer's Workshop – If you are in the school please take a moment to read the short stories that the grade 5-6 students have written. It is great to see the students developing more understanding and more skill in their writing. The student's are presently writing stories to learn how to write introductory sentences, detailed supporting sentences, organize their ideas, order the details, clarify the ideas they are trying to communicate, write concluding sentences, edit for spelling, capitalization, punctuation, subject/verb agreement, sentence structure, and transitional words/phrases.

Mathematics – Over the next 2 weeks the grade six students are learning about ratios and percents. I will be sending home some regular math homework over the next few weeks. Then we will be learning about how fractions, decimals, and percents are related.

Social Studies – The grade 6 class is learning about and having some excellent conversations about WWII. I would encourage you to ask them what they are learning WWII. This would be a great opportunity to discuss why wars start and what they can do to encourage people to get along and live in peace and to apply this to their own lives.

Science – We will be wrapping up our unit on the solar system in the next two weeks. The students have really enjoyed learning about planets, moons, stars, comets, asteroids, meteors, etc.

Daily Physical Education – Recently a skipping demonstration team came to Roland to demonstrate what they have learned. As a result we have been skipping in our daily Physical Education time. While skipping is a well known cardiovascular activity it has also be excellent to see so many of the grade 5-6 students learning how to do some challenging tricks and putting together presentation routines.

Grade 5-6 Classroom Report—Mrs. Wainikka

It is hard to believe that we are almost through April!! The weather is starting to co-operate and we look forward to being outside and enjoying the nice spring air!

Grade 5 Math – We have resumed our math homework folders. We have been working on mental math strategies with multiplication. We have been practicing estimating and working out our answers.

Grade 5 Poetry – We read a Jabberwocky poem and then we created some portmanteau words. We will be creating our own Jabberwocky poem out of the words that we created. We have been reading a Goosebumps book and the students really enjoy hearing about the scary piano player!!

Grade 5 Social Studies – We continue to work on our unit on Explorers. We are doing research and we will be creating a trading card using the computer and the flickr web site to make the cards.

Phys. Ed. – In phys. Ed. Classes the grades K – 6 classes have been working on jumping skills. We have done short rope jumping and long rope jumping. After our demonstration team from Lowe Farm School came, we have all been very motivated to try some of their tricks and create some of our own.

Running club – Our annual Running club has started at Roland School. Every Monday, Wednesday, Friday runners from grades 3 – 6 meet in the gym and stretch then go for a short run around town. We are working towards running a full 26 mile marathon before the end of June. Those that are interested are invited to come to Manitoba Marathon on June 15 – Father's Day. Watch for registration forms to be sent home shortly!

Watch for Jump rope for Heart pledge forms coming home next week.

Grade 5/6 Healthy – We continue to update our Personal Activity Logs every week and encourage students to be physically active everyday. We also started [all about me](#).

Music Report—Holly Walker

April has been a super month for our students in music as Grades 3-6 have been doing a lot of new material and Grades K-2 worked hard on their Carnival of the Animals performance on April 29th.

Grades K-2 had several rehearsals in the gym in April to get the movement, singing, and lines to prepare for the concert. Thank you to everyone who put together the costumes, the backdrop, helping the classes with the songs while I wasn't there, and mostly, the K-2 students for doing a very challenging play! Good for you!

Grades 3 and 4 have been continuing Recorder Karate and I must say this: you are all doing very well considering it is your first year playing recorder! We have also studied the composer Beethoven and his music and have been watching the movie Beethoven Lives Upstairs to learn all about his life.

Grades 5 and 6 have also been doing Recorder Karate and doing a great job on it. We are just about ready to go to the WSO Music in Motion concert and we studied Tchaikovsky's Waltz from Swan Lake doing ball choreography to it (everyone loved this!), Haydn's Clock Symphony and Air on a G string by Bach using scarves for movement. The WSO concert is taking place on Tuesday, May 13th at 1:30 p.m and Roland 5/6 will be going with us on the bus. Be sure to bring a bag lunch with you that we can eat before the concert.

May and June are promising to be very exciting music months as Grades K-2 will be doing movement to Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Grade 3 and 4 will continue on Beethoven then start a campfire songs unit, and Grades 5 and 6 will play some ukulele and popular songs after the Orchestra concert.

Here's to a great rest of the year everyone!

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Organization

