

Roland School

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Letters To Our Troops!

In November some of the students at Roland School were involved in writing letters to Canadian Troops all over the globe. The students made Remembrance Day special by reaching out to Canadian Force Members in Afghanistan, Serbia, Kosovo and Africa. Some of the students were even fortunate enough to get responses from all the way around the world.

Another opportunity has pre-

sented itself for our students to show appreciation for our troops; and this time it has a local connection. Some of the students will be writing to Corporal Jackie Wolfe, she is originally from Boissevain. Her parents Jake and Arlene live just outside of Roland. Jackie has been in the air force for 6 years; she is based out of Greenwood, Nova Scotia. Jackie is currently serving as a clerk at headquarters in Kandahar at the air base.

The students will be writing letters, drawing pictures and connecting with her base within the next couple of weeks. It is a great way to boost moral amongst the troops and to let them know that we still think of the sacrifices they make day in and day out. The students should be proud of their interest in such projects; they are truly making a difference!

Early Dismissal

When the students are dismissed on Early Dismissals the staff works on items that are intended to help us improve our ability to teach our students. During this Early Dismissal we looked at and discussed Smart Boards which is a technology that is intended to make technology more interactive as an instructional tool. Mrs. Wainikka presented on an interesting course she took on managing students when they become frustrated or angry. Then we worked on learning to use some technology that can help us in our teaching, and Mr. Dennis and the resource teachers worked on how to help students who have some difficulty with reading.

“Together We’re Better”

January 28, 2009

Special points of interest:

- *A big thank you to Chris Boschmann for her huge donation of Campbell’s Soup Labels.*
- *No School on Jan. 30th Admin Day.*
- *February is I Love To Read Month*
- *Feb. 12- Gr. 4 HBV needle & Gr. 6 girls HPV needle*
- *Feb. 16—No School. Louis Riel Day.*
- *Feb. 18—Early Dismissal*
- *Feb. 23-27—Kindergarten Registrations 9:00-12.*

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February—I Love to Read Month

February is “I Love to Read” month and we will once again celebrate reading, writing and the joy of literacy with a number of activities. The month will start off with ‘Stop, Drop & Read’. Each day there will be a ‘signal’ and all students and staff will Stop what they are doing, Drop, and Read! Everyone is reminded to keep a book handy!

Our second week of February is our ‘Guest Reader’ week. Friends and family are invited to come into the school to read. Please contact your child’s classroom teacher to set up a suitable time if you are interested in sharing a favourite family story.

Week three is ‘Teacher Switch’. Staff will ‘switch’ classrooms and read to students they don’t often have a chance to be with.

We wrap up the month with another week of “Stop, Drop & Read’. We encourage all families to join us in celebrating “I Love to Read” by curling up and reading at home with your little ones. Enjoy!

Intramurals

Beginning in January, gr. 4 - 6 have begun Intramurals. Students sign up for various sport activities that are played over the lunch hour once a week. The January sport was volleyball, February will

be basketball, and March will be badminton. Students are put into teams and they play games from 12:15 - 12: 50 either on Thursday or Friday in the gym. It has been a great way to pass the cold weather, get some

physical activity, cooperate and have fun! Thanks to all students that have signed up! And big thank you to staff volunteers that have helped supervise.

Kindergarten News!!

Welcome back from Christmas break!! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday. It's hard to believe that we are halfway done our school year already, time is really flying by.

Just a little update, In ELA we continue to work on our Animated Literacy program. We recently met Timmy T-rex (T) as well as Sadie Seal (S). We have also started learning about Nursery Rhymes. We started out with Humpty Dumpty, which was well known and then moved on to Hey Diddle Diddle, which some of the children had never heard before.

It is fun watching the students try to understand how a dish can run away with a spoon.

In math we have started to learn about shapes. We are starting with the basics square, circle, rectangle and triangle. We will also continue to practice our numbers and patterns.

In Science we have started a new unit!!! The class will now be learning about paper. We will learn about different things made out of paper, as well as how paper is made.



Safety is our topic of the month in Health. The students have been discussing safety in the home, and how to avoid certain dangers that can be found in the home. We have talked about what to do when strangers come to the door, and what dangers can be found in different rooms of the house.

We look forward to learning about and exploring new and exciting things in the Kindergarten room.

Grade 1 & 2 Newsletter Update—Mrs. Kent



Grade 1 & 2 class got to make Inukshuks.

It's hard to believe that we are at the end of January! The cold temperatures and frequent 'inside' recesses have made this month a bit challenging to get through, but we have persevered.

We completed the Science unit "Position and Motion" and reflected on our learning at the end of December. The New Year brought us to a new unit of study, a Social Studies unit, 'Diverse Communities'. We have been studying the Canadian North and looking at 'Inuit' traditions. We have learned about some of the contributions and inventions that have come from a variety of Canada's first Nations people. We have seen many pictures of animal life in the north. We have compared 'natural' and 'constructed' features of a community and have looked at Natural Resources. We have been comparing northern communities to our own community and have noticed that while there are many differences, there are also many similarities. We will continue to examine the similarities and differences between Roland and northern communities. We welcome anyone that may have an experience or link to come to our class and share their stories. We are eagerly looking forward to our field trip to The Manitoba Museum in early March. Permission slips will be sent home sometime in February.

In Math the Grade One students have been learning about numbers using number stories. We have been doing activities that involve estimating, counting and then representing and describing numbers in a variety of ways. Students have used 10 frames, words, numerals, charts, and tallies to show their understanding of numbers. The Grade Two students have also been developing understanding of numbers by doing similar activities with larger numbers. In conditioning facts we have begun to look at "doubles". Doubles are number stories like: $5+5$, $6+6$, $7+7$, $8+8$, & $9+9$. It is imperative that Grade Two students memorize these key facts. We will be developing 'place value' concepts as well.

Students are encouraged to develop their writing skills by using letter / sound relationships, expressing themselves to the best of their ability and practicing spelling words. Weekly spelling lists continue to be sent home with Grade Two students and can be practiced on line at 'Spelling City' through a link on our classroom wiki. Please continue to read **to** your child as well as **with** your child at home. Talk about words, play with language and words, and give them opportunities to see how reading, writing, and mathematics has a place in everyday life, not just at school.

Grade 3 & 4 Newsletter Update—Mr. Strange

Hello Grade 3 / 4 parents!

I hope that everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. The students made the transition from holidays to classes with ease and enthusiasm; that is not an easy thing to do. The students have shown strong ability in our Fractions unit in math. We are writing stories in ELA and I have enjoyed reading each and every one. The students have really shown creativity and significantly improved writing and editing skills. Look forward to these stories making their way home! In Science we are almost complete our Spaghetti bridges, in no time we will be testing, and destroying our creations. The students have shown promising ability in designing, building and modifying structures. In Social Studies we are getting more familiar with the beautiful province Manitoba! The students have done a great job showing their appreciation for all of the things that make them proud Manitobans. “I love to read” month is coming up in February I encourage parents and students to make an extra effort to get into as many books as possible. I am looking forward to a great month in February; lets hope that it brings warmer temperatures and more excellent learning experiences!



Nathan Strange

Gr. 5 & 6 Newsletter Report—Mr. Dennis

English Language Arts

We have just finished writing short stories. Writing stories provides an opportunity to develop our skills in identifying interesting ideas to write about; improving our ability to organize events in an interesting and logical order/paragraphing; work on developing different types of and more interesting sentences and word choices; to edit our work for spelling, punctuation, capitalization, grammar, usage; and how to present our work effectively (font and font size, line spacing, title, date, author, etc.). We have taken a break from our home reading logs and our weekly spelling, however, we will begin them again starting next week. Also, the grades 5/6 students have been working on keyboarding skills with Mrs. Wainikka.

Mathematics

We will be spending a few more weeks on the Number Unit. It is the largest unit of the four units in the grade 5/6 curriculum. Thus far we have been learning to read, write, and estimate numbers to one-million and hundred thousandths, multiples, factors, prime and composite numbers, common multiples, lowest common multiples, and greatest common factors. Over the next few weeks we will be studying prime factorization, proper- improper- and equivalent fractions, mixed numbers, decimals, integers, and percent.

Social Studies

We are currently studying about Manitoba becoming a nation, adding provinces and territories to Canada, and Challenges for Canada as a new country in its early development.

Science

We have been learning about matter in science. Students are learning about a substance's ability to dissolve, its solubility, buoyancy, density, suspension and forming new solutions.

If you have any questions or comments or would like to talk please feel free to contact me or write a note in your child's agenda asking me to contact you.

Sincerely,
Mr. Dennis



Gr. 5 & 6 Classroom Report—Mrs. Wainikka

Gr. 5/6 students have been getting back into the regular routine of classroom duties and working hard to achieve their goals. It is great to see some students work hard to improve their learning and work hard to do their best!

In poetry, our class has worked on personification, metaphors, and similes. We have read several examples of these types of poems and we have written some poems that reflect these themes.

In vocabulary, we have now completed all of our Social Studies themed words on government. The knowledge of these words will now give students the advantage during social studies class with Mr. Dennis to understand the vocabulary and build on the meaning of the unit of study. We always look up a dictionary definition, write the word in a sentence, and sometimes we play a game on the computer called Password that reviews the words.

In Health we have continued our Lion's Quest themes. We just finished a lesson about cooperative groupings. We talked about the various roles that groups have, like the collector, reader, etc. And we also talked about how to work together in a group.

In Phys. Ed. we continue with basketball and volleyball skills. We also have done our Pop-sicle run/test for endurance, and we will be going curling this week.

In French, we have read about our pig called Alphonse, and how he keeps getting stolen. Our job is to find the thief and give a description of the criminal – all in French! We have even made wanted posters that are posted on our bulleting board. Students love singing the theme song. We learned a new game called "Telephone".

In art class we have completed drawings on a grid and we are entering a Canada Day Poster Challenge that is open to ages 5 – 18 to design a poster that illustrates their pride in their country. The theme is With Glowing Hearts! We will also talk about the upcoming Vancouver Olympics and Paralympics Winter games as possible themes. All entries to the contest receive a pen, hand flag, bookmark, pin, tattoo and 2010 Winter Olympic Souvenir. The provincial winner receives a trip to Ottawa for Canada Day 2009, the National Winner wins a trip to the 2010 Winter Olympics!!!! Wow, maybe someone from Roland will represent us there! Good luck students!



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