



Newsletter Title

Student-led Conferences

Roland School held Student – Led Conferences on the evening of Nov. 15 and the morning of Nov. 16. Students were able to share their portfolio with their parents and discuss their goals and their strengths. Thursday evening was again a popular evening to attend. Attendance over the two days this year was 81%.

Next Student – Led Conferences will be March 27-28, 2008

SAG Nov. 23 - Special Area Group Inservice

On November 23, Cindy Wainikka attended COSL – Council of School Leaders at R.B. Russel School in Winnipeg. The keynote speaker was Robin Chestnut. Robin is a juggler and he spoke about how a juggling program could be implemented into schools. He also talked about how juggling supports leadership, co-operation, and improves self-esteem. He is available to come to schools to do a presentation and/or workshop with staff or students.

Cindy then attended the Literacy with ICT workshop with Bonnie McMullan.

In the afternoon, it was off to “Field Trips: Expect the Unexpected” with Bobbi Ethier and Ken Pearce. We discussed policy guidelines, Public School’s Act, and the Administration Act regarding field trips and our responsibilities regarding students and staff. Student safety and communication to parents was regarded as the most important issues. There were several interesting discussions and case studies that followed.

During SAG Erin McIntosh attended two sessions. The morning session was with Irene Schlarb and the session was called Interactive Websites for children. It was an excellent session to attend because it taught everyone about many different websites covering the core subjects for all grades kindergarten to grade six. There is a website that can be used for anything and everything! The internet is a wonderful tool to use in the classroom.

The afternoon was called ‘Whose Learning Is It?’ It was about student-led conferences and creating portfolios. The presenter was Brenda Augusta. It reinforced the importance of student-led conferences and how it allows the students to take responsibility for their own learning. When parents are involved in talking about learning with their children, the children achieve more. Another important point is that non-judgmental feedback helps guide and support their learning. There were many resources that can be readily used, it was a very informative session to attend.

Roland School

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Special points of interest:

- ☺ PAC Mtg. Dec.10-5:30 p.m.
- ☺ Gr. 3-6 Xmas Concert—Dec. 12th
- ☺ Last day of school before Xmas break Dec. 21
- ☺ School resumes on January 7th—Day 2

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SAG continued

This year I attended the Reading Council of Greater Winnipeg Special Area Group. The RCGW is a Council of the International Reading Association and hosts events throughout the year. This year they hosted Ms. Dawn Reithaug, who spoke to the topic “Orchestrating Success in Reading, Assessing and Teaching Readers in all Grades”. Ms. Reithaug hails from Burnaby, B.C. and is a Behavioural and Educational consultant there.

Ms. Reithaug talked about the current research on teaching reading, reviewed the assessing and teaching of the five components of reading (of which the foundation is oral language) – phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and strategies for comprehending text. She also discussed options for striving readers.

Sheila Kent

Early Dismissal—Nov. 28th

On Nov. 28, Roland School had their Early Dismissal and we used our Early Dismissal Wiki that was developed last month. We looked at the Literacy with ICT continuum and how it is being used in our classrooms. We looked at the history behind the continuum and how it was created. We viewed a Power Point created by Cheryl Prokopanko from the Department of Education.

We also used our study book called “Tools for Teaching” and read through chapters 10 and 11: Rules, Routines, and Standards. Chapter 10 was called Succeeding from Day One and we focused on “Bell Work” and icebreakers. “Bell work” is work that students work on as soon as they enter the classroom. It helps to define the classroom as a work environment while eliminating the time wasted by “settling in.”

For example: What did you learn yesterday? Mind Benders, silent reading, story read to them by another student, math problem, mad minutes, word games, journal writing, morning message on the board, etc.

We also shared some icebreakers that can be used to build community, co-operation, and social skills. Some of the icebreakers that we discussed were a Scavenger Hunt, “Guess Who”, Place in the Family, Get to Know

Library News

We are having a bit of a problem lately with our library books when they are being taken home, they are coming back ripped, pages missing or coloured upon.

In the future we will have to charge the students if the books are not able to be repaired. We have reminded the students about keeping their books in a safe place at home and we would appreciate this being reinforced at home

Kindergarten Class at work



Kindergarten Klips

Hello everyone. We have had a busy November. We were so happy to see our Moms and Dads at school and be able to show them some of the activities that we do every day. Thanks for coming Mom and Dad. With the cold weather arriving please make sure your child is dressed warmly for going outside to play. We have met the letters S-Sadie Seal, and R-Rosie Raccoon and after I write this we will be meeting the letter H.

As Christmas time approaches our class will be making lots of things to surprise Mom and Dad. This week we made Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer by tracing around our feet for his head and around our hands for his antlers. They are on display in the hallway. I will be sending home a new book record sheet for December. Please continue to read often to your children.

Ms. Walker's Music Classroom Report

Hello Everyone!

We have been doing many fun things this month for music, including performances for Remembrance Day which went very well...give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done!

The Kindergarten and Grade 1 and 2 classes have been doing a winter unit recently and learning about movement to go with an idea. The Grades 3 to 6 classes have been working diligently on their Christmas Concert performing the Nutcracker Suite Musical as well as other Christmas Carols. The concert will take place at 7 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 12th at Roland School Gym. The concert attire is as follows. (what students need)

Soldiers: red shirt, black pants, hats

Sugar Plums: purple or pink dresses, wands.

Russian dancers: black pants, white shirts, black socks

Arabian dancers: sweat pants, tank tops, bracelets (one color)

Chinese dancers: paper fans, black pants, bright tops (one color)

Flowers: brightly colored tops, black pants or dresses.

We will be having four more rehearsals with me, and the classroom teachers will be providing the rest as I am here on Day 3 and 6 in the afternoons. We will begin full rehearsals in the gym starting on Thursday, November 29th. So Grade 3-6... have fun rehearsing and it will all come together at the end. Trust Me!

Ms. Walker, Itinerant Music Specialist.

Grade 3 & 4 Classroom Report—Miss McIntosh

We have been doing a lot in the month of November. Each of us chose one thing that was our favourite activity of the month and what we learned. Here is our list!

Keenan – My favourite activity in November was Jeopardy and gym because I learned more about Thailand and I learned how to play volleyball.

Gabby - My favourite activity in November was Writers Workshop because I am learning how to write stories.

Crystal - My favourite activity in November was French because I learned how to make a cool puppet. I named mine Bingo like my old dog. I learned how to say animals in French.

Taylor - My favourite activity in November was French. This is because I loved making puppets. It was so cool making puppets. I made a cat. I love cats. I learned how to say animals in French.

Gr. 3 & 4 Classroom Report continued —Miss McIntosh

Rachel - My favourite activity in November was gym. This is because we are learning how to play volleyball. I like volleyball because we are learning how to play Kings Court.

Jennifer - My favourite activity in November was Readers Workshop because I learned how to read thick chapter books and put up five fingers when we choose a book. I also like making puppets in French class learning the animals names in French.

Jackson - My favourite activity in November was doing science projects. This is because it was fun when we read that a giraffe can protect itself by kicking.

Eva - My favourite activity in November was Time Me. This is because I got to learn about times and plus and take away. We always do it in the morning.

Jordan D. - My favourite activity in November was Fun Time Friday. This is because I learn to play other games and make patterns and guessing numbers from the calendar.

Dane - My favourite activity in November was social studies and Writers Workshop. This is because we are learning about Thailand and we played Jeopardy about Thailand. I like making stories and presenting them to the class.

Bobby - My favourite activity in November was practicing the Christmas Concert. This is because I'm the Mouse King.

Ainsley - My favourite activity in November was doing S.O.S. This is because we tell about our books that we are reading. I learned to read harder books.

Renee - My favourite activity in November was when we did our science projects. This is because I had to look for information on sharks in books and on the internet. We had to print pictures and cut them out and make a poster.

Jordan F. - My favourite activity in November was Time Me in math. This is because I like addition and subtraction, it's fun!

Stefanie - My favourite activity in November was gym. I like playing volleyball. It is fun.

Jaime - My favourite activity in November was French. This is because we made puppets and I learned how to say dog, cat, hamster, fish, bird and gerbil in French.

Esteban - My favourite activity in November was Readers Workshop. This is because I like to read and do S.O.S.

Tony - My favourite activity in November was practicing for the Christmas concert. This is because I like the music and the characters and I like Christmas.

Austin - My favourite activity in November was gym and playing Kings Court over the net. This is because it teaches us strength, flexibility, speed and to be active.

Courtney - My favourite activity in November was gym. We are learning how to play volleyball. I learned how to play Kings Court.



Gr. 1 & 2 Classroom Report—Mrs. Kent

November was a busy month, preparing Parent-Student-Teacher conferences and working on our regular activities.

This month we are coming to the end of our Science Unit, Daily & Seasonal Changes. We have explored the Seasons, the concepts of day, night and how the earth moves around the sun to create day, night, and the seasons. We have ‘acted out’ how the moon moves around the earth (using a flashlight and orange) so that we can see the phases of the moon. We have used thermometers and have measured temperature in different locations and were fortunate enough to see how the sun could make a significant difference to the temperature in one place on the playground compared to another. We made sundials and looked at our shadows to see how the movement of the sun was used as the first clock.

To wind up our study we have talked about the seasons affect on how plants, and animals (including people) change / prepare for each season. We reviewed the terms migration and hibernation. We asked ourselves the question, “What can we do to help animals in winter?” So, to that end the students are busy making bird feeders to put out at their homes.

The Grade One & Two students participated in the Remembrance Day service with a ‘peace song’. The day was made very interesting with our special Veterans from Portage la Prairie coming to visit. Please check out our wiki to see pictures and the report about our service.

In spelling the grade one students are putting together beginning, middle, and ending sounds to make three-letter words (using the vowel ‘a’). Words including letter sounds a, b, c, f, m, s, t, and r, can be practiced at home (at, cat, bat, bam, Sam, am Cam, cab, fab, tab, stab, ram, far, car, star). The grade two students are still working on words with ‘ch’ ‘th’, ‘sh’, and ‘wh’. Some of our words are more challenging and need to be practiced daily. These words are posted on the wiki and sent home with the students on a study sheet to practice.

In Math the grade two students are continuing to learn more strategies for ‘conditioning facts’. We have been working on doubles (1+1, 2+2, 3+3, 4+4, 5+5, 6+6, 7+7, 8+8, 9+9, 10+10) and are now moving onto ‘doubles +1’. Please talk to your child about what these strategies are. Memorizing the ‘doubles’ is a key to helping them develop their ability to learn their number facts quickly and accurately. We continue to work on ‘skip counting’ and the concept of odd and even numbers.

In Writer’s Workshop we are developing awareness of the writing process. Students have been working on ‘All About Me’ stories and have begun to work on writing a ‘friendly letter’.

All in all we are busy, and looking forward to that special holiday coming up at the end of next month! Until then!

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Classroom Report – Mrs. Wainikka

It has again been a busy month in the gr. 5/6 classroom. The students worked very hard to get their electronic portfolios ready for their parents. Everybody did a great job presenting his or her work! Student-led conferences are a great way to celebrate our learning and plan for the future.

Gr. 5 – Math – The grade 5 class have been finishing up their unit on number and representing large numbers. We will be building a model for one million!

Poetry – The gr. 5's have been working on verb or action poetry. They have been creative with the way they can make the words show action in their poems.

Gr. 5's are enjoying our read aloud story called "My Teacher is an Alien."

Soc. St. – Gr. 5's have been finishing up their Ice Age projects. Some students have presented their projects to the class. We have learned a lot about mammoths, and other Ice Age animals.

Gr. 5/6 continued to study Canadian geography as we just finished a Canada quiz. The students needed to identify all of the provinces/territories and their capital cities.

Accelerated Reader – Students continue to read their AR books and do their quizzes on the computer. Congratulations to Spencer, Joeanna, and Angela for receiving their certificates. Keep reading everyone!

Play practice has started and we will be working hard to get ready for our Christmas concert on Dec. 12 called "The Nutcracker." We hope to see everybody at Roland School that night at 7:00 pm. It is going to be a great show!

Phys. Ed. – K – gr. 2 classes have been working on their overhand throwing skills. Gr. 3 – 6 classes have been practicing volleyball skills like serving, bumping and volleying, and spiking. King's Court is a popular game.

Gr. 3 – 6 students will be doing fitness testing before the holiday



Roland School

Box 93
Roland, Manitoba
R0G 1T0

Phone 204-343-2023
Fax: 204-343-2254

Together We're Better



Please go



Gr. 5 & 6 Classroom Report- Mr. Dennis

English Language Arts:

Reader's Workshop – Along with a continued focus on developing greater vocabulary, fluency and comprehension we are learning how to write book reports using the books the students are reading. Students participate regularly in shared peer reading to improve their fluency and their comfort in reading aloud.

Writer's Workshop – We are learning how to organize information and details to improve the effectiveness of our writing. This builds upon the work we have done in learning to find interesting ideas to write about that capture the reader's attention. This includes organizing and writing effective opening paragraphs, body paragraphs, and concluding paragraphs. I will send a sheet home listing the outcomes the students are to learn.

Spelling – Please remind your child to practice their spelling errors each day as a part of their regular homework. We also use our spelling homework practice and spelling tests to improve our cursive writing ability so the students need to write their words in cursive writing.

Mathematics - The grade six students are working on the unit "Exploring Large and Small Numbers". This involves writing large and small numbers, finding patterns in numbers, and using numbers to measure items.

Social Studies – The grade six students are learning about the Social Changes and the Great Depression that occurred between 1919 and 1945. I will be sending an information sheet home with the students listing the learning outcomes for this unit.

Science – In Science we are beginning the unit "Exploring the Universe". I will be sending an information sheet home with the students listing the learning outcomes for this unit.

Character Education – We are learning about the character trait respect this month. You can ask your child what goal they have set to practice being respectful.

Computer – The students are working on their keyboarding skills using Ultra Key.

Homework – Please help your child establish a quiet place and a time to do their homework. I recommend that grade 5-6 students do about 30 minutes of homework per night. During this time they should practice their spelling words and do any assigned homework. If they do not have any assigned homework I would encourage you to have them read for this period to help them maintain this routine.
