



February 2022 Newsletter

Principal's Message

February is "I Love To Read month" at schools across Manitoba. Throughout the month we will be doing special activities to remind and encourage our students to be more active readers. The theme this year is "Moving Forward with Hope" which I think we would all agree is very appropriate considering the times we are living in. Being a critical, and efficient reader takes time and practice. At school, reading is a focus in every classroom every day. We are hopeful that at home, reading is stressed and encouraged as well. Thanks to Mrs. Williams for planning our month of activities and for enabling our students to find books they are interested in on a daily basis.

The first 6 weeks of 2022 have been "unique" to say the least! 3 teacher inservice days, 5 days of remote learning, and 6 snow days. This left us with only 9 school days. We are looking forward to having some 5 day weeks ahead of us in February and March if/when the weather cooperates. Every day of learning is important and we have to make use of all of the time we have with our students.

Thank you to all of the families out there that have followed public health guidelines when it comes COVID-19. The majority of our families received rapid test kits in early January. In some instances these were useful when it came to confirming cases of COVID-19 which led to students staying home, and not passing it on at school. Our attendance has been solid in the new year, and we hope that we are on the downside of this latest wave.

Our 2nd round of Progress Conversations will be taking place virtually on February 23rd and 24th. A letter will be sent home in the upcoming days explaining how to sign up and the format for these important student-teacher-parent check-ins.

Yours in education, *Tim Lee*

Parent Advisory Council

“to support and encourage the development of a positive school community that fosters independent, socially responsible learners”

Additional Info

An Agenda for each meeting will be prepared and send out at the same time as the link for the virtual meeting.

If you have something you would like to see discussed please contact Lynnette Lindell at the email below or you can contact Billie Jean Oliver at the school.

Thank you! We look forward to

Playground Committee Members Needed!

Additional members of the Playground Committee is required. As spring approaches, updates on plans to move forward are needed. If you are interested in helping, please contact a PAC Member or the school!

Meetings

Our next meeting is:

Date: March 10th
Time: 8:30 pm
Location: via zoom

Everyone is welcome to participate in our meetings! A link to the virtual meeting will be sent to all parents/caregivers via mass email on the day of the meeting.

Fundraising

We will be holding a 50/50 draw as a spring fundraiser. Look for tickets to come home before Spring break.

50/50

Volunteer

We are looking for energetic individuals who are willing to join our PAC group. We work together to raise funds for the continued development of our playground and assist the school with various events. For more information on how to volunteer, please contact Lynnette Lindell @ 204-982-9372 or by email at lynnette@lansard.ca



Woodlands Parent Advisory Council
January 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present: Lynnette Lindell, Billie Jean Oliver, Tim Lee, Jeannine Campbell, Jen Mazur

Regrets: Tara-Lee Koss, Brette Park, Casey Tully

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order at 8:40

Minutes: November 2021 Minutes were read. Lynnette Lindell moved to have Minutes passed; Jen Mazur 2nd the motion.

Treasurer's Report:

Regular PAC Chequeing:	\$5,686.45
Playground Chequeing:	\$4,260.99
Playground Savings:	\$19,466.07

Fundraising:

- Gift Cards earned \$843.05
- Shelmerdines – was not clear to determine. Billie Jean to connect with Shelmerdine's to know exact amount earned.
- Will do a 50/50 for a spring fundraiser. As each ticket needs to be accounted for, each book to have a cover indicating requirements for reporting.
- Townes Apparel was discussed as an option – Lynnette to look into for further details.

Principal's Report:

- Return back was interesting with 1st week of remote learning and then 4 "snow days"
- kids need the routine and good to get back into it.
- ISD is tracking and posting attendance on their website;
- 70% of our kids from K-6 took home Rapid Test kits; rest of kits are now for symptomatic staff
- there has been no mention of holding another vaccination clinic as of yet.
- kids are required to wear either a medical mask or a 3-layered mask;
- Gr. 7/8 and 5/6 classes are being separated for lunch to be able to allow for more space; other than that no major changes;
- I Love to Read month is in February; Mrs. Williams is working on activities to promote;
- Mrs. Fisher coaching girls basketball; Ms. Gray will coach boys
- there is now a requirement to show proof of vaccination to play;
- EA time has been temporarily capped up to 6 hours a day until Feb. 11th.
- Starting to look at numbers, class groups and staffing for next year;
- so far, number of students are remaining the same; usually get a few more closer to the start of the school year;
- will look at the configuration of classrooms;
- Ms. Hallow on medical leave until Spring Break – Jessica Prefontaine is in to cover;

New Business:

- For the playground would like to see if we can find other committee members;
- send out an email/survey to see how much interest we can get.
- Jennine C. is willing to volunteer on the playground committee – Thank you, Jennine.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 10th @ 8:30 pm

Adjourned: Meeting adjourned at 9:28 pm



Grade 5/6 Classroom Corner

January has been another busy month in the 5/6 room. Even though we spent the first week after holidays doing remote learning, the students have been working hard.

In ELA, the theme of our reading and writing has been around things that are cold, including how animals adapt to cold weather, avalanches, and how climate change can cause more snow. I thought it was fitting considering the extraordinary winter weather we have been having. We are finishing off the month and moving into February with novel studies. The grade 5s are reading *Because of Winn Dixie*, while the grade 6s are reading *Touching Spirit Bear*.

In math the students have been reviewing fractions, and practicing making equivalent fractions. The grade 6s have been working with decimals including converting between fractions and decimals and completing mathematical operations with decimals.



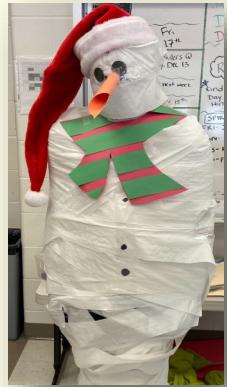
I think the highlight of the last few weeks has been our science classes. We have been investigating electricity! Before Christmas, the students designed cities with a suitable power source such as hydro electricity, wind power or fossil fuels. They decided on their power source using various criteria, and through consideration of the physical features of their cities and the surrounding geography. More recently the students have been investigating circuits. They have learned to build a circuit using a battery, wires and a light bulb or buzzer. They have incorporated switches into their circuits and tested the electrical conductivity of various materials. I am very proud of many of the students' ability to work cooperatively with group members to complete a scientific investigation, and troubleshoot when the desired outcome was not achieved. I can definitely foresee some electrician careers in the future for this crew.



Grade 7/8 Classroom Corner

I can't believe we are already into February and half way done the school year. Where has this year gone!?

The 7/8s have been quite busy in both ELA and SS for the past few months. In November and December we focused on learning and understanding parts of a story in preparation for writing their own spooky stories! We read numerous short stories where we looked at elements such as setting, characters, plot, foreshadowing, figurative language, mood and tone, and more! We watched many videos to compare and determine the difference between mood and tone and how they can be identified in different types of texts (movie clips, images, and stories). We then investigated the mysterious disappearance of Harris Burdick and his drawings and titles for stories that were left behind when he disappeared randomly! Students then wrote stories based on these images! Their stories were super interesting to read as the students are very creative – ask your child about their story!



In Social Studies we were learning about Ancient Mesopotamia. We learnt a lot about how society lived in and built their civilizations. We had Mrs. Busch, our Division Literacy Specialist come in and do some cross-curricular activities with us where our focus was "Critical Thinking". Students developed inquiry-based questions around a famous Mesopotamian ruler that they wanted to learn more about. Students then made a bobble head to represent their famous ruler. As well, we talked about Ziggurats which were a famous temple in Mesopotamia. Students worked collaboratively and made their own Ziggurats which we then made into a marble challenge. These were also so much fun for the students as they built them and then raced the marbles. Now, we are currently learning about Ancient Egypt. In this unit we will discuss the geography (ask your child what the longest river in the world is and what's important about it), famous pharaohs, mummification, pyramids, hieroglyphs, and much more.



Guidance

This year, our school wellness goal is about promoting a Growth Mindset in our students. I get to spend time with each classroom once a cycle and focus on different topics related to each specific classrooms needs.

All of our grade 3-8 students so far have done many activities and discussions on what a Growth Mindset is and how to try and promote a Growth Mindset in the classroom. We have talked about seeing challenges as an opportunity to grow our brain, mistakes as a learning opportunity, effort versus talent and not giving up when working towards a goal, and much more. Students are beginning to change their mindset from, "I can't do this," to "I can't do this yet, I need to ask for help."

Kindergarten and grade ½ students have been focusing on emotional literacy which includes understanding emotions, recognizing body language and facial cues when identifying emotions, and learning about Zones of Regulation and how to regulate themselves when they are feeling a certain way.

All students will continue to work towards developing a Growth Mindset while discussing other topics throughout the year.



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January 31st, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Re: I Love to Read Month is February

“I Love to Read Month” is a month-long celebration that is held each year to encourage reading, writing, and sharing the joy of literacy. This year’s theme is “**Moving Forward with Hope**”. This theme is meant to help readers understand different perspectives, develop compassion and move through these challenging times with empathy.

A Reading Challenge Calendar is attached (and is posted on our website) for use at home and at school. We are challenging students to participate in classroom reading during the Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) event. Participation prizes will be awarded. Please support your child(ren) and encourage them to participate in both the classroom and at-home reading challenges.

If you have any questions about I Love to Read Month, please contact Mrs. Williams at the school.

Good Luck to all and “Happy Reading”!

Mrs. T. Williams
Library Clerk

February 2022: “Moving Forward with Hope”

School Day Reading Challenges for Woodlands						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Start a Gratitude Journal. Write 3 things you are grateful for each day.	Read Out Loud to a Family Member	Make a book mark all about you.	Read about a different country.	Create a list of your top 5 favorite books.
6	7	Ask your family to tell you about your culture.	Write down 5 words that describes yourself.	Make a plan for how to include others.	Create Drawings to go with Your Favorite Book	Volunteer to help a family member with a task that they are working on.
13	14	Learn a family recipe.	Greet someone in a new language.	Write a thank you note to someone special.	Read a Fiction Story	Write Your Own Ending.
20	21	Recommend a Book to a Friend	Celebrate the day! Go for a nature walk.	Write down 3 of Your Favorite Winter Activities	Complete a random act of kindness.	Teachers: Read A Joke to Your Class
27	28	Have a family member tell a story.				Connect with someone you love. Play a game, watch a movie or read a book together.

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Day 5  Groundhog Day	2 Day 6 K	3 Day 1	Inservice No Classes
6	7 Day 2 K	8 Day 3	9 Day 4	10 Day 5	11 Day 6 K	12
13	14 Day 1  Valentine's Day	15 Day 2 K	16 Day 3	17 Day 4 K	18 Day 5	19
20	21  Louis Riel Day No School	22 Day 6 K	23 Day 1  Progress Conversations 4:30 – 7:30	24 Day 2 K	25 Day 3	26
27	28 Day 4 K	<i>WATER BOTTLES, WATER BOTTLES, WATER BOTTLES!</i> <i>Please remember to bring them to school!</i>				