



## Important Dates

**Tuesday, Feb 5:** 4F & 4S Swimming

**Wednesday, Feb. 6:** Welcome to Kindergarten event for parents and children who will attend Kindergarten in September 2019. The event begins at 3:15 p.m. and will take place at Salem.

**Thursday, Feb. 7:** 4F & 4S Swimming.

**Monday, Feb. 11 – Friday, Feb. 15:** Staff Appreciation Week.

**Tuesday, Feb. 12:** 4F & 4S Swimming.

**Thursday, Feb. 14:** 4F & 4S Swimming.

**Thursday, Feb. 14:** Skating!

**Monday, Feb. 18 – Friday Feb. 22:** No Trailblazers or LINKS tutoring due to Mount Allison Reading Week.

**Monday, Feb. 18:** Family Day Holiday – No School.

**Tuesday, Feb. 19:** 4F trip to the Wetlands.

**Wednesday, Feb. 20:** 4C trip to the Wetlands.

**Thursday, Feb. 21:** Skating!

**Thursday, Feb. 21:** 4S trip to the Wetlands.

**Friday, Feb. 22:** Visiting French Author for Grades 1 – 3 French Immersion classes.

**Tuesday, Feb. 26:** PSSC meeting @ 6:30

**Wednesday, Feb. 27:** Home & School Association meeting @ 6:30

**Thursday, Feb. 28:** Skating!

## From the Principal's Desk

January, wrought with storms and storm days, has flown by and here we are into February! Salem staff continually works to engage students, not only in the learning process, but also school life. Recently some very self-directed students started a Clean-up Club. Their entrepreneurial leadership attracted 19 students to be part of this club which cleans up the playground on Tuesdays and Thursdays at short recess. We encourage students to solve problems where they see solutions are needed. Sometimes this is in the form of just a conversation, but sometimes students want to do more to help, like form a club. If helping to form or volunteer to be the adult attached to a student club sounds like something you would like to do, please reach out to us. We can match you up with student suggestions!

Here's hoping that February weather is kinder to us, that we are outside every day for recesses and that spring arrives early!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Phinney

## Home & School News

Salem's Home and School Association has a new president! Congratulations to Jenny Celly as she steps into this role. The Home & School Association is always looking for new members. Feel free to join us at our next meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Please look for more information coming to you through the next talkmail.

## Hoopla and Hullabaloo

During the month of January, teachers have been reviewing the code of conduct with our students. Our code of conduct states that we will be kind and helpful, we will be respectful, and we will do our best every day. This is the Salem way! What is the Hoopla and Hullabaloo part, you ask? The Hoopla and Hullabaloo is a way of thanking the students for consistently following the code of conduct. Students will participate in a variety of fun activities a few times throughout the year. Last year, activities included: 15 minutes of extra recess where all students and staff got to go outside for some extra fresh air and we also had a dance party in the gymnasium. We have a few fun ideas planned for this year's hoopla and hullabalos!

## Learning Adventures

The second round of Learning Adventures for grades 3 and 4 is in full swing. Students are participating in a variety of activities in the areas of STEM, Fine Arts, Community Connections, and Sports and Wellness.

## Trailblazers

Thanks to our partnership with the town recreation department, we continue to offer the Trailblazer program after school at Salem School. Students are enjoying learning new outdoor experiences! Please remember that there will be no trailblazers for the week of February 18 to 22 in observance of Mount Allison University's Reading Week.

## Classroom News

**Kindergarten:** The Kindergarten students have been learning about friendship and love as we approach Valentine's Day. We have incorporated a few of the 7 Grandfather teachings as we talk about honesty, respect, and love.

**Grade 1 – 2 Eng.:** The grade one and two English students are in the midst of a winter investigation. Students have been tracking the changes of seasons, the weather and the amount of daylight hours as the seasons change. Grade one students are also exploring different cultures and celebrations, including Chinese New Year and Mi'kmaq stories. Grade two students will be examining the changes in the states of water and the water cycle.

**Grade 1 FI:** French Immersion students are beginning to read French levelled books at home daily! We have now learned more than 30 French sounds and more than 70 sight words. Grade 1 French Immersion teachers are proud of their students' progress. We are continuing to encourage every student to talk in French as much as possible. This month we talked about our community and learned about many places in the town of Sackville.

**Grade 2 FI:** Flex grouping has begun in reading and in math! Students are studying matter (liquid, gas, solid) this month. They will write a short story about a natural environment and what type of matter we would find there. Think/Pair/Share speaking activities will also be introduced. Students will be sharing their opinions on why they believe a state of matter is a liquid, gas, or solid.

**Grade 3 – 4 Eng.:** Grade 3 and 4 students are finishing up their procedural writing pieces. We will be working on persuasive writing in the coming weeks. We have started open-ended word problems in math. An open-ended word problem is a math problem that has more than one answer and several ways to solve the problem. These word problems enhance problem solving skills in students.

**Grade 3 FI:** Our focus this month will be to begin Guided Reading! Students have started to work in literacy activities in reading to get them ready for guided reading. In math, students are working in guided math groups. Students participate in guided math group 3 days a week where they work on activities that are based on their needs. Word work (spelling) has begun. Students will receive 5 sight words per week and will do activities to reinforce the correct spelling.

**Grade 4 FI:** In French Language Arts, we are practicing our literacy skills through centres which focus on reading, writing and oral communication. In Math we can describe and apply mental strategies to determine basic multiplication facts and are now relating it to division. In Science the grade 4 students have begun a unit on Rocks and Minerals. We will describe, compare and identify their properties.

## Gentle Reminders

**Garbage Bags!** If you haven't picked up your garbage bags, they are available for pick up at the office. We also have extra packages of garbage bags for anyone who would like to purchase more. The package includes 20 medium blue, 20 medium clear, and 20 small green bags for \$10.

In the morning, the front driveway is closed to all traffic with the exception of buses and staff parking. Please use the Kiss and Drop to drop your children off in the morning.

At the end of the day, please **DO NOT** pass the buses when they have their red lights activated and stop sign extended. If you are picking your child up near the end of the day, it is best to pick them up a few minutes earlier or park on Queens Road to avoid being caught behind the buses as they load. Thank you for attention to this very important safety concern.

## Did You Know?

As some of you may already know, Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> is Global Play Day. Some of the classes at Salem will be participating in this grassroots venture to provide students an opportunity to participate in unstructured play.

## Skating

All students will be going skating on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>. The Kindergarten students will skate from 8:45 until 9:30. The grade 1 and 2 students will skate from 9:30 until 10:15 and the grade 3 and 4 students will skate from 10:30 until 11:15. Please meet us at the rink! Parents are encouraged to come help tie skates and join us on the ice. Students are required to wear **CSA approved helmet** (it can be a hockey helmet, bicycle helmet, skateboarding helmet, etc.) and properly fitting skates. Students also **HAVE to wear gloves or mittens that cover their hands and fingers**. Students may only remove jackets if they are wearing a long sleeve shirt or sweat shirt. They are not required to wear snow pants if they are wearing pants (not shorts). If your child is not a strong skater, it is recommended they wear snow pants to provide a little extra cushion in case they fall. Tag-games are not permitted on the ice. Please help us remind the students of these important safety guidelines so we can all enjoy the extra physical activity! It is also a great idea to sharpen skates at least the day before we go skating to make sure your child has lots of time on the ice. It is recommended that parents wear skates and a helmet when on the ice, however, it is not required. If parents choose to wear shoes, the shoes must be "indoor" shoes. Shoes that have been worn outside are not permitted on the ice as the salt on outdoor shoes is not good for the ice surface. Hope to see you there!