



January Newsletter

Fairvale Elementary

January 5, 2013

Family Literacy

Another new year and many of us see it as a chance for a fresh start. We plan our new year's resolutions with great hope and intentions. We will eat healthy, exercise, or become more organized. It might be fun to add a few thoughts for sharing family literacy. Mark Thursday, January 24th on your new calendar as national Literacy Day. It was created in 1999 by ABC Life Literacy Canada to raise awareness of the importance sharing literacy as a family. We will be inviting family members to school to share favourite stories with groups of children throughout the day. Other events planned for that week are; Dress as your Favourite Character day, a book swap, a poster contest and daily reading activities with chances to win prizes. On the following Thursday, January 31 we will have our Literacy Curriculum Evening where you and your child can join in a variety of writing activities together in the classrooms.

With the nights getting longer and colder, we may find that we are spending more time in front of the TV and computer. Getting together to watch a good movie can help bring a family together and even better if that movie is based on a classic, must read book. For older children reading the Hobbit and then going to the movie would be a great introduction to the Lord of the Rings series. There are a great many movies based on good novels out there. Ink Heart, The Golden Compass, the Harry Potter series are great read-to books. Other good books that have made the big screen are Alice in Wonderland, Bridge to Terabithia (sad but touching), Holes, and many fairytales for the young readers. It's fun to read the books together first and then see the movie but it also works the other way around.

Along with a family movie/book night a weekly family game night can also help emergent readers improve their skills. Boggle, Junior Scrabble and other games that require reading skills can be a fun way to support learning at home. With coaching and fair teams everyone in the family can play and feel successful.

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Mrs. Bonnie Hierlihy Principal

Mrs. Julie McNamee,

Vice-Principal

F.E.S Families Care!

Thanks to the generosity of the students, parents, and staff of F.E.S., we were able to donate many toys to the Rothesay Regional Fire Department's toy drive initiative. The Fire Department was so impressed by our donations that they are coming to our school to talk to the students about what a difference their donations made.

We also contributed hundreds of nonperishable food items and other household essentials to the KV Food Basket. In fact, we sent 17 huge boxes of food to the food bank!

It was wonderful to see the children making a difference in our community. Thank you parents for helping to teach our children about generosity and the joy of giving.

Staff Changes/ Updates

We wish to welcome **Mme. Julie Mackay** to our staff. Mme. Mackay has been teaching at Hampton Middle School for a number of years and will be replacing Mme. Martin. All the best to Mme. Martin as she and her husband await the arrival of their first child in late February/ early March. **Mme. Connie Culligan** will continue to teach grade 4 French Immersion for at least another month. **Ms. Diana Miller** will continue to replace Mrs. Krickler at the kindergarten level. A special welcome to two UNBSJ student interns- Rebecca Downs and Kaitlyn Belyea who will be with us for 15 weeks. Rebecca will be with Mrs. Shillington and Kaitlyn with Mrs. Blanchard.

Math Corner

Problem Solving Strategy of the Month: GUESS AND CHECK

For some problems, your best strategy may be to make a guess and then check to see if your answer fits the problem. If not, decide if your guess was too high or too low and then make a second "guesstimate." It is helpful to keep records (usually some kind of chart) to see any patterns and to narrow down the possibilities. The results of incorrect guesses can give you valuable clues to the correct solution. **Guess and then check** the solution to these problems:

K - 2	3 - 5	Challenge!
Billy has 42 marbles to put in boxes. Each box will hold five marbles. How many boxes will he need?	I am a 2-digit number over 50. When you put me in groups of 7, 2 are left over. The sum of my digits is 11. What number am I?	Use exactly 50 coins to make one dollar. You must have at least one penny, one nickel, one dime, and one quarter.

School Closures

The following options are considered when deciding what to do during inclement weather situations:

1. Schools are open as usual in which case no announcement will be made.
2. All schools (or some schools) are closed, or a 1 hour bus delay for the day with an appropriate announcement being relayed to:

Local radio stations prior to 6:30 am

The district website (www.asd-s.nbed.nb.ca)

Follow us on twitter http://twitter.com/ASD_South

The district information phone line (toll free 1-855-535-7669)

There are also rare occasions when our school will close during the instructional day. This may be due to inclement weather, plumbing or electrical problem or other unforeseen circumstances. If this happens, we will immediately send a Synrevoice message via email. Our primary teachers will make every effort to reach all families. Teachers in upper grades will also make contact if they have a cell phone. Without cell phones in each class it is impossible to make contact with every family. Please ensure the school has an up to date emergency closure plan. Also ensure your child is aware of their plan.

Drama at F.E.S

The Fairvale Drama Club has begun rehearsals for **Aladdin**. We are looking for parents who are interested in helping with costumes, sets, and or props. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. McNamee. We will be performing in April.

Mouse Trap Car Races

Our Mouse Trap Car Races for grade five students will occur this month. Students create and build a race car using a mouse trap to propel it. There will be a meeting for those interested in joining in early January. The races will take place in the gym on January 17th and 18th.

A special thank you to Mr. Armstrong for overseeing this exciting initiative.



Counselor's Corner: Building Skills at Home in January

The 4th of the Seven Habits: Think "Win-Win."

How difficult would it be to choose an area in your family life that needs additional cooperation, teamwork and better attitudes? It may be bold of me to speculate that for most of us, we would have an answer in a matter of seconds. Here is an award winning article by Maren Schmidt, M.Ed. from kidstalknews.com with a great illustration of using "Win-Win" at home.

In our busy day-to-day lives, as we try to do everything--jobs, children, home, marriage--stopping to think what everyone in our family needs may not be a high priority. When we're caring for small children, there never seems to be enough time, enough money, enough sleep, or enough hours in the day. It's difficult to find the time to step back and look at the big picture when we are going from one crisis or deadline to another, trying to meet our family's needs.

As I've mentioned before, the principles found in Stephen Covey's book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, have been extremely helpful to me. "Think Win-Win" is one of those principles. Making a habit of thinking "Win-Win" can help everyone in the family have his or her needs met and keep family life in balance.

A key question that can help us focus on family needs is from the Don and Jeanne Elium's book, *Raising a Family*. "What does this family need now, including me?" Too often, as parents, we forget to think win/win, and our personal needs go unmet. Using this key question can help us focus and open a creative discussion with everyone in the family about priorities.

Here is an example of how one family used win/win thinking and the question "What does this family need right now, including me?" Katherine, the ten-year-old, wanted a piano at home instead of practicing at her grandmother's house. Mom and Dad were reluctant to give up space, money and quiet for a piano along with dealing with one-year-old Frank and four-year-old Steve.

After a week of tossing ideas back and forth, the family decided to sell their dining room furniture and turn the dining room into a music room. Mom and Dad realized they didn't use the dining room as much as they all enjoyed playing music. When they thought win-win, Katherine got a space to practice her music, which also included playing violin and flute. Steve asked to start violin lessons, and Mom took up the guitar again.

It all began with a family meeting where everyone wrote out their needs and then started thinking win/win. Alternatives appeared, such as not having a dining room, selling the dining room furniture to pay for an electronic piano that could be used with headphones, and installing French style doors in the dining room opening.

Mom had never considered giving up her dining room. She was surprised how thrilled she felt selling the furniture to a friend that ran a cooking school. Dad was delighted to get a "new" room without remodeling or taking out a loan. Katherine was glad to practice anytime she liked without having to worry about her brother's bedtime or naps. Steve was happy practicing his violin with his sister in the new music room. One-year-old Frank enjoyed bouncing and dancing to live music. Extended family and friends were treated to concerts and sing-a-longs.

Make a habit of thinking win-win by taking a half hour once a month to ask everyone in your family, "What does this family need right now, including me?" Give your imaginations time to consider the possibilities and enjoy an outcome that may exceed your expectations.

Have a Merry Christmas and to make 2013 the best year ever, why not give the 7 Habits a try. You might even consider letting your children take the lead!

Jane Perkins Love Guidance Counselor

Dates To Remember



- Jan. 9 First day back at school for students
- Jan. 9 Home and School Meeting 7:30
- Jan 14-18 EYE-DA for next year's kindergarten students
- Jan. 21-25 Literacy Week
- Jan 22 Lunch orders sent home
- Jan. 23 Student Book Swap
- Jan. 24 Family Literacy Day- visitations from parents, grandparents, babysitters and others to read to classes
- Jan. 24 Lunch orders due
- Jan. 24 PSSC Meeting 7:30
- Jan. 28 Food Period 5 starts
- Jan. 29 Yearbook group photos
- Jan. 31 Open House Curriculum Night

Skating Schedule

Date	9:15-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:15
Jan 10, 17, 24, 31 Feb. 7	3 Jones 3 Gillis	K Olive K Shuttleworth	5 McRae 5 Walsh



HAPPY NEW YEAR

Early Years Evaluation - Direct Assessment

The Transition to Kindergarten for our 2013-2014 kindergarten students continues this month. During the week of Jan. 14-18th all children will be given the Early Years Evaluation: Direct Assessment (EYE-DA). It is an individually administered direct measure of the developmental outcomes of children aged 3 to 6 years. The EYE-DA evaluates aspects of early child development in four areas that are closely related to emergent literacy skills. They are:

- Awareness of self and environment
- Cognitive Skills
- Language and Communication
- Gross and Fine Motor Development

All parents with a child commencing Kindergarten in the Fall of 2013 set up appointments at our Welcome to Kindergarten event. If you do not have an appointment, please contact Trina Pearce at 432-4593 or Trina.Pearce@nbed.nb.ca

All assessments will take place at Saint Mark's Catholic Church on Pettingill Road.