

Principal's Message

Hello Students, Parents and Community Partners!

As you will recall, last year we began our Balanced Literacy approach by focusing on the writing process with particular emphasis on the Pre Writing and Drafting components along with Revising, Editing and Publishing components. Experts suggest that 70% of the time initially should be spent on the Pre Writing component helping the students to develop background knowledge through:

- oral discussions between the teacher and students on the topic they will be writing about,
- developing a list of words familiar with the topic you're discussing with the students, and
- categorizing the words to help build more vocabulary for writing.

We also weaved into the writing process, Ruth Culham's "6 + 1 Traits of Writing, those being ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, conventions and presentations. This allowed the teachers to provide a common language right from Grade 1 to Grade 7 to help the students embrace the writing process. It was felt that the more the students approach writing as a process in the traits (the common language), it will enable young students to start thinking like writers, talking like writers, and writing like writers because it will give them the language to do so.

Through this analytical assessment process, we:

- develop a shared understanding of what "good" writing looks like,
- can scaffold into reading reinforcement, phonemic awareness and vocabulary development,
- can align assessment with instruction,
- can evaluate writing with consistency and accuracy, and
- can provide meaningful feedback to students enhancing their writing and the teachers' assessment of their writing.

This year we will continue to do monthly independent student writing samples assessed by the BC Performance Standards so that student writing can continue to be charted for growth for our school.

Finally, students just finished the District Assessment of Reading (DART) and School Wide Writes (SWW) assessment administered by the classroom teachers. Both assessments are two fold, providing teachers with feedback in reading and writing to assist them in providing meaningful instructional planning to help identify strategies for improvement. Secondly, the assessments allow us to see if students' reading and writing abilities improve over the school

year since they are administered multiple times. The data collected from all the classes will also provide a school profile that will help us with goal setting for our School Growth Plan.

In closing, Yukon Education has signed all Yukon schools and the Department to take part in the “international Shake Out” which occurred this past October 22, 2015. The students all practiced their Drop, Cover and Hold On drill should there ever be an earthquake. Please be apprised that emergency drills for lockdown, bomb threat, earthquake and fire are now mandatory. Publicly funded schools in the Yukon are committed to providing and maintaining a safe school environment.

This newsletter will continue to inform you of upcoming events and important dates. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to come in to the school or call.

Sincerely,

Ralph Pilz,
Principal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On October 26, 2015, Ms. Norman and Mrs. Reams took the Grade 1 class, as part of our Social Development Program, over to the Signpost Seniors Centre to perform a skit, “Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses”. The skit was designed to help youth understand that it’s OK to be different and we all need to accept, be kind and respect one another.

The Grade 1 students, through this random act of kindness, began the outreach to the community. Other classrooms throughout the school year will also become involved in community outreach through other various acts of kindness.

Hallowe’en was also celebrated at JES on Friday, October 30 by a “Hallowe’en Parade” beginning at 1:00 p.m. with students parading in their costumes followed by a multitude of fun activities for all students. Ms. Smith and her Grade 4/5 students are to be commended for providing leadership in making this a day of fun-filled activities.

Parents and community volunteers were also well represented during the afternoon activities. JES would like to thank you for your involvement in the Hallowe’en Parade, facilitating student fun activities and donating baked goods and treats for fundraising for future student events.

As in past years, JES on Friday, November 6th, celebrated “Remembrance Day” by honouring and reorganizing our veterans at a school assembly followed by a meal served by staff and students.

During the week prior to the ceremony, staff and students learned about sacrifices our veterans gave to guard our freedoms and make Canada the great country it is today. We are eternally grateful for all of their efforts and sacrifices. A special thank you to all the students and staff who made this day special for our honoured veterans!

Finally, a special thank you to Mrs. Peregoodoff for organizing the events, decorating the Remembrance Day bulletin board and various other appropriate decorations and to Mr. Bauer for his organizing and assistance in this very sacred ceremony we are proud to facilitate each year!

On October 5 – 9, under the leadership of Mrs. Murphy, our students took part in Fire Safety Week. Colouring contests highlighting fire safety were provided for our primary students. Students also had a chance to spend time with the Fire Fighters on fire safety instruction and an opportunity to tour the fire engines which they thoroughly enjoyed. The week culminated with a “Dance Off” between Sparky the Fire Dog and Johnny the Moose. At the end of the assembly, the students then played indoor soccer against the firemen in the gymnasium. Fun was had by all participants.

I would also like to thank Ms. Ingalls for her leadership as the staff member in charge of Student Council. A lot of work went into campaigning and a student election to choose the Council. The Student Council has also formed a Student Safety Patrol to assist staff at recess in ensuring all students are playing together respectfully. The Student Council is currently in the process of planning for a school dance for the month of November. If you require more information about the Student Council, please feel free to contact Ms. Ingalls.

Finally, students completed Craft Club this past month headed by Ruby Busse, Leazel Slager, Natalie Sauve and Nicholle Ingalls. Interesting projects and fun was had by all the participating students and staff. More sporting and club activities are being planned throughout the school year by various staff. If you have some special talents in sports or other extra-curricular areas, please feel free to contact me or other JES staff. We would welcome any parent or community volunteer support.

Parent / Teacher Conferences

Report period 1 ends November 27th with report cards going out to parents on December 4th. We would appreciate once parents have reviewed and signed the report cards, to have their children return the folder to their teacher.

We will again be facilitating Parent/Teacher Conferences to discuss student progress to date. Dates and times will be sent home with report cards. There will not be any overlap in the scheduling of these conferences so parents will have the undivided attention of their child's teacher. We would ask that everyone be time considerate. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, December 10 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. & 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Conferences will also be scheduled for Friday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. If the time scheduled for your conference is not convenient, please let the teacher know so that another time can be arranged.

We will also be holding the Book Fair during these times. We would like to encourage everyone to take some time to check out the collection of books. There will be a wide range of books available that are of interest to primary and intermediate students.

Scholastic Book Fair

December 7 – 11, 2015

Times will be scheduled for classes to look at the books and to shop. Notices will be sent home. The Book Fair will be open to the public on:

Wednesday, December 9 & Thursday, December 10
3:30 – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, December 11
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon

This is a great fundraiser for the school. We are able to order lots of books for our classrooms with the money we raise at the Book Fair.

Prizes to be won!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed., Dec. 2, 2015

1/2 Day of School

Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.

Tues., Dec. 15, 2015

Christmas Concert

7:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome!

Mon., Dec. 21, 2015 to

Fri., Jan. 1, 2016

School Closed

Christmas Holidays



Christmas Concert

Students are busy getting ready for the Christmas Concert. It will be school-wide event with all of the students participating.

The Christmas Concert will be held on **Tuesday, December 15** at 7:00 p.m.

Please note that the day of the week for the concert has been changed from previous years.



Seasons Greetings