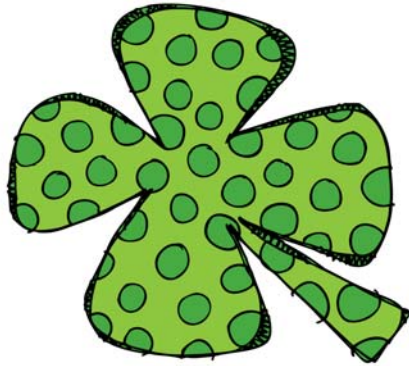


# 1w March Newsletter



Rooted, Nourished and Growing!

**Dear Parents,**

We are about to “**March**” into another exciting month in our classroom. With Lent, St. Patrick’s Day, and Spring, we will have a very busy month in our classroom.

### **Lots of celebrating going on in first grade!**

I would like to thank all of the parents that helped make our Valentine’s & 100 Day activities in February a huge success. First, thank you for taking part in creating the wonderful Valentine mailboxes. The children loved sharing their creations.

“**Thank You**” to Mrs. Rentas for the delicious 100 Day cupcakes and for supplying the juice that we enjoyed at the end of the day. Also, “**Thank You**” to all the parents that tied skates and helped take off skates. We couldn’t have done all of this without your help!

We have one birthday this month: Everett. May God bless you and grant you all your wishes...on your birthday and always. Happy birthday!

### **March Curriculum Overview:**

**Reading:** The children are always encouraged to choose their own books that they are interested in and can read independently. Giving students choice can be very empowering and it motivates young readers by helping them learn to enjoy reading. We have an Author Spotlight each month to get them more familiar with a wider array of options. Then my hope is they just might add that new and exciting book to their reading box to read.

We will continue “Guided Reading” during the month of March and the reading strategy during the month of March is: Retelling the story- characters, setting, problem and sequencing. The **Parent Pipeline** March letter is attached. The reading strategy focus for the month of March is “**Retell the Story.**”

**Home Reading Update:** In home reading it looks like we should be able to reach our goal of the whole class **reading 100 books** by the end of the year! I simply want them to be the strongest readers they can be before I send them off to second grade. I tell them all the time how, just like swimming or hockey, we have to work very hard at reading practice *consistently* to build strong reading muscles! Most of the children are now working on their Platinum card (or beyond) and excitedly report how close they are to finishing the next level. I am so pleased by how motivated they’ve been by the program.

**DOLCH Words:** I have been working on testing the children for sight word recognition on the Pre-Primer, if needed, and the Primer Dolch word lists for the upcoming report cards. **The children should be able to instantly recognize all the words on the Pre Primer and Primer lists by now.** Please continue to work on these to build speed on word recognition. If your child does not know all of them instantly, please spend extra time so that they are confident with them.

**Writing:**

Many of the students have been writing a full Small Moment story across three or more pages. Their progress in writing this year has been great as students are so much more independent and take pride in their work as young authors. We will write about Spring and St. Patrick’s Day this month. Excellent work, grade one!

**Math-** We have been spending lots of time during Math class counting by 2’s, 5’s and 10’s. Please practice counting by 2’s to 20 with your child each night in order for them to be able to do this independently. If they can go higher than 20, that is great. They can also practice counting by 5’s and 10’s to 100. Some of the students are finding this to be challenging and would benefit from daily practice at home. The students will be orally tested for each of these before report cards. In March, we will complete a short unit on Length and Capacity. A letter was sent home outlining the unit. Please look for those containers for our hands on activities. Any parent help in Math this month would be TERRIFIC!

**Social Studies-** We are working on **Unit 3: Geographic Features of Our Community.** In this unit, students explore and reflect on some of the geographic features in their physical environments and on how those features contribute to their sense of identity and belonging in their community.

**Science-** We will be finishing up our unit on **The Five Senses** this month and will then move to a unit on **The Needs of Plants and Animals.** We will also continue our study of **The Seasons** by moving into the season of **Spring.**

**Religion:** Lent is a time for changing our hearts in preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our Lenten journey. During Lent, we will be

asking: **What can I learn from Jesus?** With our eyes on Jesus, we try to spend more time in prayer, more time talking to God and listening to God. During Lent, we are called to prayer, penance, and sacrifice (fasting and almsgiving) but surprisingly, for many of us, the most difficult to accomplish is the prayer. Real prayer is an intimate moment with God. For that to happen, we need to speak to God and we need to listen. Most of us find it challenging to put ourselves in a place where we can turn off the noise of the day. But those few moments with God can bring clarity to the chaos of modern life.

We will spend time each Friday morning listening to God in our hearts through song, a reflection and then a minute of quiet prayer. We try to grow closer to God by learning to say sorry for our sins and asking for forgiveness. By making up for doing wrong, and changing our actions, we can know God's mercy and love. The students were given a Lenten Calendar on at the beginning of Lent. We are asking each student to post their calendar on their fridge and to follow it daily throughout Lent. We will also be collecting a specific food item each week for the Food Bank. **May God bless you and your family as you journey together through Lent.**

### **Report Cards**

Your child will be receiving his/her report card on **Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**. The report cards can be kept at home once you have gone over them with your child. I am asking that the students just return the envelope so that it can be used again. Student led conferences and Interviews, as per request, follow this report card. Look for more information from the office in notes and emails.

Thank you once again for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter and helping with our classroom projects. There's lots of learning in first grade!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Williamson  
jill.williamson@rdcrs.ca

# March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Super Kid-Elizabeth	27	28 Shrove Tuesday Library Bucket Filler Awards	1 Ash Wednesday Celebration 10:30 am	2	3	4
5 Group Sharing	6 <b>HOT LUNCH ~ Subway</b>	7 Library	8	9 No School - PD Day	10 No School - PD Day	11
12 Super Kid-Annabelle	13 <b>HOT LUNCH ~ The Chopped Leaf</b> Dennily, Manuel Kaitlyn, James	14 Library Sienna, Alex, Jysanha, Koralyn	15 Elizabeth, Annabelle, Hayley, Chloe, Eva Snack Shack Div. 1- PM	16 Chase, Hailey Bradly, Kyler Roll Out of Bed (Pajama) Day Bring 50 cents for Foster Child	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! Everett, Brendan, Ryan, Hadin Report Cards Go Home	18
19 Group Sharing	20 <b>HOT LUNCH ~ Domino's Pizza</b>	21 Library Bucket Filler Awards 12:45	22 <b>Student Led Conferences</b> 4-7pm	23 <b>Parent/Teacher Interviews (Only if requested)</b> 4-7pm	24 No School	25
26	27 Spring Break	28 Spring Break	29 Spring Break	30 Spring Break	31 Spring Break	