

Term 2 Newsletter

Grade 6/7

Cake Draws



On January 18, 25, and Feb. 1st our class will be raffling off 2 cakes each week. Thank you to the McIlhargey, Schurter, Schmidt, Heimpel, and Steffen families for donating these cakes. Be sure to buy tickets on Mrs. Waechter's cake too (Jan. 18). The tickets are \$.50 each or 3 for \$1.00. All proceeds from these raffles will go to our local food bank.

Literature Circles

Students are working in small groups and reading the same texts. Each student has an assigned role and reports back to the group his/her understanding of the story based on the role assigned. Group members discuss the report and deepen their own understanding of the story read. The various roles include: Wordsmith, Storyteller Tree, Character Sketcher, Passage Master, and Sentence Summarizer. Later in the unit, groups will read novels in the same way. The boys and girls are enjoying their discussions with others about the stories they read.

Pure Substances and Mixtures

Our science unit is continuing with lots of experiments. We have used a lot of sugar cubes and made predictions on the variables that affect the rate of dissolving. The scientific method of controlling variables is an important concept in this unit.

Basketball Free Throw



Each year our local Knights of Columbus sponsors a free throw competition. It will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26 at Wingham Public School. Students are practicing during gym periods and each day at lunch. All students are encouraged to take part in this fun activity.



Math

Grade 7 are working on the Number Sense Unit and are exploring factors, multiples, exponents, square roots, and order of operations. Grade 6 is working on a similar unit, but subtraction and addition were also a part of their program. Several methods will be presented for 2-digit multiplication and for division. Until they gain full understanding of these operations, some students may prefer to use a longer method than parents may be used to.

Automatic recall of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division tables is essential for students to move to the next steps in their math program. There are many websites available to use, along with traditional flashcards, and dice games. Thank you for any help you can give your child in making these facts automatic.

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Grade 7 Ski Trip



The Grade 7/8 ski trip will be on Friday, January 25th. The permission form and information was sent home and are to be returned by Friday, January 18, 2008. Mrs. Kaufman will appreciate any parent volunteers who wish to accompany her on this trip.

Use of Agendas

Thank you to all parents who check their child's agenda daily to make sure homework is completed and correspondence is received. These are great organizers for students and instill strong work habits that enable students to be successful.

Epiphany and Social Justice

Our religion classes have been centered around the Epiphany, Christ's manifestation to the world. Students are reminded how they are to be stars (guiding lights) for others around them.

The next theme in religion is social justice. Please check newspapers, websites, and news reports and discuss injustices in the world with your son or daughter. We will be reading and discussing how some people have made a real difference in our world, and how students in their own "little ways" can model the behaviours of those who make a difference.

Great Websites

The following are a list of great math websites to use:

For Grade 6 students:

www.nelson.com/nelson/school/elementary/mathK8/math6/parentcentre/parentcentre.html

For Grade 7 students:

<http://www.nelson.com/nelson/school/elementary/mathK8/math7/parentcentre/parentcentre.html>

For creating math worksheets:

<http://superkids.com/aweb/tools/math/>

The following are great sites to look at PowerPoint presentations on a variety of topics:

http://www.nebo.edu/misc/learning_resources/ppt/

For exploring Canadian statistics:

<http://estat.statcan.ca/cgi-win/cnsmcgi.exe?LANG=E&ESTATFILE=/ESTAT/DATA.HTM>

For understanding what kind of learner your child is:

http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_fftp/client_ftp/ks3/ict/multiple_int/questions/choose_lang.cfm

Contacting Mrs. Waechter

If you wish to talk to me any day, before school, after school, and 11:10 – 12:00 are good times most days. I am always available to talk with parents about their child. Please call **before** something small is a bigger issue. I hope your child is enjoying this busy year in Grade 6/7.