



January 13, 2011

“Education is not filling a pail but the lighting of a fire. ~William Butler Yeats”

Principal's Message

Welcome back to a New Year! I trust everyone had a good holiday. I see our students with bright eyes, refreshed and eager to take on new challenges.

We would like to welcome Mrs. Lucy Adams to Cloverdale Traditional School. Mrs. Adams is our new Administrative Assistant so you will all get to know her when you call the school or come into the office. She comes to us from Lansdowne Middle School. (If time permits, ask her to tell you about some of the adventures she and her husband Don have had teaching and working in other countries.)

January to March is prime learning time for children. New learning from the fall is now a foundation on which to build. Please see that your children are at school each day and on time. Research shows that when a student is absent more than 20% of the school year, the student has only a 1 in 6 chance of graduating from high school with his/her peer group. This is relevant for each year – Kindergarten to Grade 12!

Extracurricular offerings for this term include: Basketball, Dance, The Norman Foote Choir and Lego Club. There will be many things for children do to!

This is the time of the year when we readjust our lunch monitors. A big thank you to all of the students who have offered their time to assist in younger classrooms during the lunch hour!

Watch for information about the Spellathon to come home on January 24. This will include pledge information and spelling lists.

Kathy

Uniforms

Thank you to everyone for your efforts to ensure that your children are wearing the correct uniforms to school. Please be certain that your child has their vest at school for field trips and assemblies. (It is also cool in the school these days and the vest is one way to keep warm.)

A quick reminder about two issues that are beginning to arise:

1. Sweaters may not have a hood.
2. The blouses that include an attached vest do not meet uniform guidelines. The children may wear a blouse and a sleeveless sweater vest.



Spellathon

The Spellathon is coming. Spelling lists and pledge forms will come home with your child on January 24. The spelling test will take place Wednesday February 2.

Monies raised through the Spellathon will go directly to student support in the classrooms (Fine Arts, classroom materials, field trips.)



Homework

I have had some questions recently about homework. Homework in the K-5 classroom takes on many forms. Sometimes teachers send home specific tasks: a project to complete, daily work that was not finished during the day, a specific task to be completed at home. In addition to these assignments, here are some daily 'homework' activities for all children.

1. Home reading: many teachers send home daily home reading. This is a very important part of your child's reading program. Books that teachers have selected for the book bag are at your child's reading level. This ensures that time spent reading is appropriate and will assist your child with their reading. Daily reading practice is essential to the success of young readers. If your child's teacher does not send home a book, each child should read 15-20 minutes daily.

2. Word Work: all of our students in Grade 1-5 have daily Word Work to complete. The bag with their words and the assignment come home Monday and need to be returned (the homework page initialed) on Friday. These activities should take 5-10 minutes to complete.



Additional Homework Activities

On days that you are looking for additional learning activities to do with your child here are some suggestions. It is important for children to remember **“We get good at what we practice.”** The following activities are opportunities for that practice.

1. Math review: (using dice, cards, flash cards)
 - a. Facts drills:
 - Gr. 1 Addition and Subtraction to 10
 - Gr. 2 Addition and Subtraction to 20
 - Gr. 3 Multiplication Facts to 25 (5x5) Plus Addition and Subtraction to 20
 - Gr. 4 Multiplication Facts and Addition and Subtraction
 - Gr. 5 Multiplication and Division Facts
 - b. Games:
 - Snakes and Ladders, Monopoly, Yahatze, Cribbage
2. Language Arts:
 - a. Reading: the comics, sports pages, front page of the paper
 - b. Writing: shopping lists, letters to family members and friends, emails

FSA (Foundation Skills Assessment)

During the next month students in Grades 4 will participate in the Ministry Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA). This is an annual province-wide assessment of students' reading comprehension, writing and numeracy skills.

The FSA remains an important source of student data that, along with our school wide assessments such as our School Wide Writes (for writing), PM Benchmarks (for reading) and Report Cards, helps us guide what we need to teach and provide in resources for children to be successful learners.

The Grade 4 teachers have worked together to create a schedule for the assessments. Thank you for your assistance in the weeks ahead.



ÉCOLE INTERMÉDIAIRE CEDAR HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Open House!

Tuesday, February 1st, 2011, 7:00 pm

Is your son or daughter moving into grade 6 next September?

Cedar Hill invites you and your child to an Information Evening which will introduce you to the programs and opportunities available at our school.

Grade 5 students will be bringing home a detailed invitation soon. Please mark Tuesday, February 1st on your calendars!

Tom Aerts, Principal

Irene Ives, Vice Principal



Host for a weekend!

Thursday March.10 - 14th

Edutour Homestay Associates is looking for families in the Greater Victoria area who enjoy learning about other countries and would be interested in hosting two Grade 11 Japanese high school girls.

Please contact Wendy right away for details including honourarium at 250-412-1579 or email wendy@edutour.ca



APTN (channel 108 on Shaw or channel 155 on Telus) has just sent us the premiere date for **Tiga Talk!** Season 3. A Cloverdale Traditional student is a cast member of this program. **Kate-La** works very hard every summer to be part of this and gives up over half her summer to work. So please take some time and watch the show if you have APTN. It's currently set for **January**

6, 2011. This can change, but that's what we've been told for now. Here's how it will play across the country:

APTN WEST - broadcasts in PT

Premieres Thursday, January 6 @ 8am will be the pattern for each week.

We will of course send updates and be doing promotion closer to the launch date, but we wanted to let all of you know as soon as we knew!

Tanzania

Thank you to everyone for their support for Lemay Primary School in Tanzania. Between our two fund raisers (Thanksgiving and Christmas) we were able to send \$659.94 for the purchase of books. Bravo!