IGNITING LEARNING: LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Students and staff have established and settled into their routines for this year. One of the first goals of each school year is to determine individual learning strengths and needs. Teachers have administered diagnostic assessments like Prime (for Math) and BAS or GB+ (for reading) to identify conceptual or skill-based gaps in order to plan targeted and personalized interventions to close them. Students are encouraged to know what their areas of growth are in order to set personal goals. Once these have been established then they can work diligently with their teachers and use feedback to reach them.

Each year, as a school, we create a School Improvement Plan (for Student Achievement and Well-Being). This plan (SIPSAW) targets areas of improvement in Literacy, Numeracy, Well-Being, Equity and Diversity and Leveraging Digital.

This year, we are working towards greater consistency of solid, evidence-based instruction and assessment practices in Literacy and Numeracy. We will be focussing our professional development and resources into ensuring that we have the optimal conditions for success. Homeroom teachers will be meeting once a month with administration and Board support staff to co-assess and co-plan.

One specific area of attention will be to ensure that students can not only demonstrate their understanding of curriculum content, concepts and skills (getting it right), but that they can apply this knowledge to new settings by recognizing relationships and connections (Application and Thinking). By doing so, they will be actively constructing their own metacognition.

Grade 4 and grade 7 students should already have received their Individual EQAO results. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school. If you did not receive yours yet, please ask your child.

Homework is one way to connect school and home. Homework is best if it is authentic learning and is used to consolidate or apply what has been learned at school. Teachers assess what students are capable of doing during the instructional time at school, not on work completed at home. This way the demonstration of learning is authentic and teachers can support students in a timely manner. Assessments are done through observation and conversation as well as products. Homework may be assigned to complete work that was not done during class time, to review what has been learned at school or to apply the skills in different contexts. Students in all grades are encouraged to practice reading, writing and basic math skills while at home. This can be done in fun and creative ways through games, by working collaboratively with other family members or by finding relevant and engaging opportunities to apply the learning.
Watch a favourite TV show together then ask your child to discuss the traits and strengths of the characters by connecting to what they did or said. (Reading Response)
Connect math to your child’s favourite sport, music or activity. How is it used? (Score keeping, stats, tempo, gaming)
Does your child ever ask you for things or money or privileges? What if they had to write to you to convince you to say “Yes”? (Persuasive Writing)

Try solving this as a family:

During our Terry Fox Run the teams ran the following amount of laps:

- Blue - 1200
- Red – 900
- Green – 900
- Orange - 900
- Purple – 800
- Yello – 800
- Pink – 700

In addition there were probably 100 additional laps run. If each lap equalled 1 kilometer, how many kilometers in total did we run as a school?
If we began in St. John’s, Newfoundland (just like Terry), how far across Canada would each team have run?
How far would we have run as a whole school?

Special Education
If your child has an IEP, you will receive it this month. As it is a working document, your input is valued. Please add to it, then return it to school as soon as possible. Gifted Testing for the students who submitted completed forms will take place the first week in November.

CREATING SAFE, WELCOME AND INCLUSIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS: WELL BEING/EQUITY AND DIVERSITY

As a school two of our goals are to focus on Well-Being and Equity and Diversity. Classroom communities are developed to ensure that each student feels heard and represented at CMV.

To begin each day we recognize any special days, months etc. on the announcements. For example, October is Islamic History Month and Hispanic Heritage Month.

Well-Being is addressed when we understand that everyone has mental health and that it is important to take care of our mental health. Students learn strategies to self-regulate and as a school we provide tools and safe places to do so. For example, we have spark bikes and “Welcome Warm-up” in the gym each morning from 8:05-8:15. These activities ease transition times and help students to up-regulate and prepare their bodies for learning.

Our Intermediates are involved with TAMI – Talking About Mental Illness this month in a series of workshops and speakers.

Equity and Diversity are addressed when we realize that “fair is not always equal” and that there are groups of people in our world who may be marginalized for a variety of different reasons. Examining bias while learning about contributions from all segments of our society is one way that we can work together in fair and equitable ways.

Our Global Citizen Club (grade 5-8) is being run this year by Mr. Martins and they began the year by having 9 students attend the “Me to We” Day at the Air Canada Center.

The group was inspired by the messages and performers on WE Day and will continue to work hard at school to spread messages about
Both local and global issues surrounding equity and diversity. Their first goal is to collect canned goods to provide food for those in need. The “We Scare Hunger Food Drive” begins this month. We would appreciate any donations of non-perishable food items such as pasta, peanut butter, jam and canned goods. All donations will benefit Feed the Need in Durham.

The Intermediate Leadership Team will also be investigating social justice issues and determining how they can “pay-it-forward” while organizing fun spirit days for the school.

The ECO Club will also be contributing to the betterment of our school and planet by focusing on environmental issues. They are already supporting a campaign initiated by 2 elementary students from another school, Derek and Luke Nguyen, “OPERATION ECOPENS”.

These students collect old pens, markers etc. These writing instruments are separated, shredded and recycled into useful items rather than cluttering landfills. Also, 2 cents per pen is donated to Earth Day Canada. There is a box in the front hallway if you decide to clean out your desk drawers and home offices.

CMV’s club is also planning our school’s first ever ECO-Olympics. Stay tuned for more information.

LEVERAGING DIGITAL

CMV is proud to be part of the 1st phase roll-out of Chromebooks. Every grade 7 student will be receiving a Chromebook on October 25th. These laptops are more efficient than our current laptops and hold a charge much longer. You must ensure that you have completed the on-line verification form or read, signed and returned the agreement for your child to receive his/her Chromebook. In addition, all grades 2-6 classrooms will receive class carts of Chromebooks. We are excited to see how students and their teachers will “leverage digital” during learning with these new learning tools.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Kiss and Ride – Is running smoothly thanks to everyone who uses it. Remember that the earlier you get here, the less crowded it is.

Continue to stay to the right, pull up to the end of the line and never pull out to pass. Working together will keep all of our students safe.

Medicine/Epipens – Thank you to those who have updated the medical information and medicine. In order to respond to any emergency we always need this up-to-date, so don’t hesitate to call if there are ever any changes.

Our goal is to eliminate preventable serious reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure for students at risk of anaphylaxis to potential allergens.
All schools in DDSB refrain from allowing soy bean butter and other similar peanut-free spreads (e.g. “WOW” soy butter) into our schools. The risk is that these types of products look, smell and taste like real peanut butter. It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish these products from real peanut butter which makes it difficult for school administrators to control for a “peanut safe” environment. Thank you for not sending these products in your child’s school lunches or snacks.

Weather – at this time of year, the weather can change rapidly. Be sure that your child has the appropriate clothing for outdoor play.

Yard Safety – We have continued to modify the “boundaries” on the yard to ensure that all students have access to all areas of the yard and that little ones are not in danger of getting accidently run over by bigger ones. We appreciate the students’ patience as well as their feedback. We think we finally have a solution that works for everyone.

Head Lice – are a Nuisance! And this is the time of year we tend to see lots. Please consistently check your child’s hair for any sign of nits or live lice and then use a recommended treatment to ensure that they are all gone. Proper treatment of bedding, clothing and stuffies will prevent a re-occurrence, as well as not sharing brushes, combs or hats. Once we are informed of a case, we can do spot checks on the rest of the class to avoid re-infestations.

ENCOURAGING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Thank you to all of our volunteers who have already been busy with school trips, classroom activities and food days. We appreciate your help. Remember that you need a current criminal reference check in order to do so.

Lunch Supervisors – This is a paid position through the DDSB. We are always looking for people to be on-call in case one of our regular supervisors is absent. If you are interested, please speak with Mme. Wells or one of our Office staff.

SCC (School Community Council) - Check out the SCC page under the parent tab on our school website. The next SCC meeting will be November 23rd at 6:30. Please consider joining us.

Congratulations to Malcolm Mersereau, CMVs Volunteer of Distinction. Malcolm will be recognized for his efforts at DDSB on Thursday October 26th.

Parent Portal – Be sure that you have registered for the Parent Portal and that you have completed the verification on-line. This is especially critical for grade 7 students in order for them to receive their Chromebook later this month.

School Cash Online – We appreciate your support of School Cash On-line. This is a fast, convenient way for parents/guardian to pay for anything related to school and eliminates the need to bring cash or cheques to school. Please check the website for specific instructions.

Dates to Remember

*TEAM COLOURED T-SHIRTS are now for sale on-line
Oct. 9 – Thanksgiving
Oct. 10 – TAMI
Oct 11 – Immunization Clinic
Oct 12 – Picture Day
Oct 13 – Friday Fun Day – hat day, head shaving, duct-tape a teacher etc
Oct 17 – IEPs go home
Oct 18 – TAMI
Oct 20 – Eco-Olympics
Oct 24 – Wear Purple for Child Abuse Prevention Month
Oct 24 – Lego Robotics starts for those who signed up (Primary)

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What’s Been Happening?

Grade 5’s have received their ‘ACTION PASSES.’ This pass includes free swimming, skating and
other drop in programs free for grade 5 students.

Check out the “Make a Difference Community Information Guide” on DDSBs or our school website for services in your community
Currently running…
Junior Flag Football – Thurs/Fri
Int. Volleyball – Mon/Tues/Thurs/Fri
Student Leadership – Mon lunch
Jr. Girls Volleyball –
Eco Club – Wed lunch
Junior Houseleague – Tues/Wed
Global Citizens – every other Thurs.

Congratulations to our Cross Country team. The whole team worked very hard, had many personal bests and showed great team spirit.

A huge shout out to Jacob L. and Joel A. who were recognized by parents or staff as being great leaders and promoters of Snowbird spirit. These young men were encouraging other team members (particularly the younger ones) at both the start and finish lines. Thanks for being kind citizens!

Top 10 finishers:
Maddox Gr. 3 – 1st place
Gr. 4 - Jeremy B, Jalen C, Kameron G., Ronan H.
Gr. 5 - Ty Lue,
Gr. 6 - Ashton B., Craig B., Emerson H.,
Gr. 7 - Mikalya M.

Congratulations to all on a successful Terry Fox run. Our school surpassed its goal of $5000 and will be having a fun Friday the 13th to enjoy all of their well-earned incentives.

Team finishes:
Gr. 4 Boys 1st place
Gr. 6 Boys 3rd place
Students wearing their team colours looked great and supported each other as they completed their Terry Fox Run. Some brave staff got shaving cream pies in the face for their teams.

A big Bravo to Mila and her friend Avery for taking the initiative to raise funds for Terry Fox. On the hottest weekend of the year, they spent several hours selling lemonade, cupcakes and popcorn in their neighborhood. Their great effort paid off. They have raised a total of $96.10. What an accomplishment for this important cause from two amazing grade 3 students at VandenBos.

Orange Shirt Day is celebrated to remember the negative effects residential schools had on many Indigenous Children…because EVERY CHILD MATTERS.

Friday Family Day in Kindergarten – students and parents learning together.

Mr. Jones and Mme Rocha’s classes celebrated Thanksgiving together and reflected on all they are thankful for…
Activating Knowledge and brainstorming ideas

Leveraging digital – Google Classroom

Patterning in Math

Grade 4’s attended the Groundwater Festival

Sharing an Autobiography

Guided practices are high yield and evidence-based.

Reading...anytime, anywhere!

From an outline to a finished product...Recount Writing

Please visit the front page of our school website for other publications such as:
Dates of Significance
Upcoming events
School related information
Community happenings