

OA3/4 Curriculum Letter – September 2009

* Indicates ongoing throughout the year

Literacy

What we've been doing:

- Structure & Style outlines and introduction to paragraph writing *
- "Reading Power" comprehension strategy focusing on Connecting (We will progress through: Questioning, Visualizing, and Inferring) *
- Read aloud of *Run* by Eric Walters to emphasize personal courage as well as Canadian
- Weekly free-writing to promote the joy of writing and being creative *
- Exploring how good authors use language by identifying "Juicy" words (strong verbs, adverbs and adjectives)
- Daily Word work
- Guided Reading

What we're going to do next:

- Weekly short writing projects based on "juicy words" and poetic devices (i.e. similes, onomatopoeia, alliteration)
- Use of COPS guided editing strategy (Capitals, Organization, Punctuation, Spelling)*
- Critical Thinking and Questioning Techniques based on "On the Lines, Between the Lines, and Beyond the Lines"*
- Novel Study: *Charlie Wilcox* by: Sharon McKay to emphasize Canadian identity and use Reading Power
- Short-story writing

How home can support:

- Continue daily home reading with your child (Thank you so much for this support!)
- Encourage your child to explain and use the Reading Power *Connect* with you after they read
- See how creative your child is by scribing for them or working with them on some free-writing at home! (They draw a picture of anything they want and then write about it)

Math

What we've been doing:

- Patterns focus: extending pictorial and numerical patterns, determining rules for growing patterns, using rules to extend a pattern, sorting attributes using Venn and Carroll Diagrams

What we're going to do next:

- Number Concepts focus: reading, ordering, comparing and representing whole numbers in standard, expanded and written form
- Rounding, skip counting, and ordinal numbers
- Shapes and Space focus: Describe, classify, construct and relate 3-D objects and 2-D shapes, using mathematical vocabulary. Use visualization of 3-D objects and 2-D shapes to solve problems

How home can support:

- Practice reading and writing large numbers, including decimals
- Repetitive practice of basic facts involving all four operations (Flashcards and math card games work well!)

Social Studies

What we've been doing:

- Practiced mapping skills using Canadian geography
- Developed understanding of vocabulary: natural resources, industries, climate and landforms
- Begun identifying Canada's six regions using key vocabulary and discuss how living in certain regions shapes your life and identity

What we're going to do next:

- Continue identifying Canada's regions and how they impact identity
- Explore the Histories and Stories of Ways of Life in Canada

How home can support:

- Watch the news/read the newspaper together and discuss current events

- Review the provinces and territories of Canada

Science

What we've been doing:

- Weather Unit: discussed and categorized types of weather, graphed the temperature daily, used thermometers to measure the temperature

What we're going to do next:

- Continue the Weather unit: explore the reason for seasons, measure wind speed, investigate human impact on the weather
- Classroom Chemistry Unit: conducting a series of experiments and applying vocabulary such as soluble, insoluble, mixture

How home can support:

- Watch the News together and discuss the forecast
- Start cooking together! Cooking is all about chemistry!

French

What we've been doing:

- Orally respond to French greetings, either in English or French (*Bonjour, Allo, Salut*)
- Orally respond to the French question "How are you doing?" (*Comment ca va?*) either in French or English (*Ca va: Bien, Comme si comme ca, mal.*)
- Counting to 20 in French
- Asking to go to the washroom in French

What we're going to do next:

- French unit: Who am I?

How home can support:

- Greet your child in French and have them respond

Physical Education:

What we've been doing:

- Cooperative Compound Games: Four Square, Around the World (Basketball)
- Throwing, Catching, and Kicking Skills
- Kickball skills such as strategy and positioning

What we're going to do next:

- Swimming
- Badminton
- Volleyball

How home can support:

- Encourage daily exercise, play catch together, go for walks/jogs

Art & Music

What we've been doing:

- Pattern Based Art (incorporating math)
- Painting skills

What we're going to do next:

- Painting Skills exploring the use of color

How home can support:

- Use grid paper to create pattern art together