



FEBRUARY 2024



ST. BASIL'S NEWS

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

2024 is here and is flying by!

We have had a busy January at St. Basil's growing together in Faith and Learning. Our students participated in a 100 Book Reading Challenge and they got a lot of reading done! We learned about Mental Health and self-care strategies on Bell Lets Talk Day. We have welcomed some new students to our school and have welcomed our school counsellor, Megan, back to work with our students in person weekly! If you are interested in this for your child(ren), please call me to chat more about it!

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

In February we have a lot of fun events to look forward to. We have a trip to St. Kateri for the 5-8 class, an afternoon of skating for the whole school, and public speaking! We will also be celebrating 100s day and Valentine's Day! We will be having a pancake lunch for the students on Shrove Tuesday and will be gathering for Mass on Ash Wednesday as the Lenten season begins. We will be doing a Lent Challenge for 40 days leading up to Easter to reflect and prepare for the resurrection of Jesus. We are looking forward to a great month with fun activities and learning together!

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

We had a 2-for-1 virtue assembly, our Virtue of the Month for December was "Hope" the winners were:

JK/SK/1/2 – Aarna

Gr. 2/3/4 – Ghiero

Gr. 5/6/7/8 – Aubree

FSL/Arts – Cashis

The Virtue of the Month for January was "Wholeness and Self- Control" the winners were:

JK/SK/1/2 – Isaac

Gr. 2/3/4 – Talia

Gr. 5/6/7/8 – Madelyn

FSL/Arts – River

Kindness awards for showing leadership and making kind choices went to: Charlie, Avery and Sofie.

Way to go Bears!

Kindergarten Grade One & Two NEWS

With the blink of an eye....January is over! As fast as the month went, the students have accomplished so much. Term 1 is officially over and Term 2 will begin with lots of exciting units and activities.

The Y1 students have been working really hard with their Open Court program. They are beginning to feel confident to print their letters and beginning to print words. It's exciting to see the progress and development happening. They have concluded the alphabet! We will review the alphabet for Term 2, focusing on letter sounds, word decoding to spell words, and writing sentences and words independently.

Y2 students will begin a new program called UFLI. This program focuses on teaching students to decode words, analyze word parts, and write and recognize words. It helps students read connected texts to support reading accuracy, fluency and comprehension.

The Grade 1 and 2 students are continuing the UFLI program and are loving the lessons and activities. Their progress is amazing to watch and their spelling and reading skills are growing so quickly. The students have been working hard in our 6+1 Write Traits programs writing about Winter and snowmen. Please come and visit our hallways to read all of the amazing work being produced by this class.

In Math, the Y1 and Y2 students will be concluding their shapes unit and moving into patterns. They always enjoy our daily math lessons and activities. The Grade 1 and 2 students will be moving into a new Number unit. This unit involves exploring fractions and money. The students really enjoy our Number Talks each day. They are beginning to master Number Bonds and we are now moving into Addition and Subtraction Sentences using our Tens Frames. They are so focused and love this block of Math.

We will move into a new Social Studies unit on Community Helpers. We will be examining different community helpers in White River. They will share how their family members are community helpers and describe the tools required to complete their jobs. It will be a fun and exciting unit!

In Religion, we will examine the meaning and seriousness of Lent. The students have chosen something to sacrifice for Lent or to make better for Lent. Through stories, the students will learn about the journey of those 40 days and 40 nights and the sacrifice Jesus endured. This will move into Holy Week, as they learn about the story of Jesus and his death. The students are eager to learn and reflect about this important time.



Grade Two, Three, Four

NEWS

Happy February from the grade 2/3/4 class!

Congratulations to our class for reading over 50 books during a 2 ½ week period, we sure do love our books here. Great work everyone! With a short month ahead, we have many new topics to cover.

Students have started to work on their public speaking speeches which they will write and practice memorizing to present to their class. Some will have the opportunity to compete in front of judges for the Public Speaking Competition at the end of February. Students are encouraged to use props and expressions to engage their classmates, try their best and have fun! We look forward to this process as we learn more about each other and our interests.

In Math students will begin a new unit of Algebra and wrap up Financial Literacy, where they have become familiar with money, change, earning, spending, saving and investing.

With Easter nearing, we will discuss the importance of Lent and the meaning of it. Students will be encouraged to give something up during the 40 days to gain a better understanding of the meaning of Lent.

We will continue to discuss the importance and meaning of Mental Health as well as ways to ensure safety and injury prevention during physical education.

Our class will also begin understanding Matter and Energy and will be exploring this unit through some experiments and activities.

Have a lovely month and enjoy your long Family Day weekend everyone!



Grade Five to Eight

FSL & THE ARTS

The Grade 5/6/7/8 Class has been busy wrapping up term one studies. January is a short month, but we have still completed a full unit in Math, and have wrapped up our History unit in preparation for a Science unit next week. In my experience, once February begins, time flies by at an accelerated rate, with multiple four day weeks, as well as March Break and Easter. As a result, students will be expected to be completing work more quickly as well, and you may see them with more homework assignments than they have become accustomed to. You will note that especially as it comes time for speeches when students will need to make use of time at home to write and rehearse their speech before presenting it to the class. I appreciate your support in monitoring their work at home. If you have questions, either general or specific to an assignment, please don't hesitate to reach out via the Remind App. (preferred), or by calling the school.

We are looking forward to the start of Winter at some point, at which time we will be able to make use of our snowshoes. We recently took delivery of several new pairs to account for the enlarged size of the class. We are looking forward to visiting St. Kateri in mid-February for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. Also on the horizon, we are working on planning a day trip to the Sault to learn more about Indigenous Culture and Residential Schools from Shingwauk Kinoomage Gamig (Shingwauk University) which is the Anishinaabe university, and another day trip to the STEAM lab in the Sault as well.

Hooray! It's finally February!

January was filled with trying to get into new routines and start new units!

The 2-4 class and 5-8 class both began working on a new unit all about food and food words! We have learned all of the basics and are wrapping it up with a final project!

JK-2 class have been going over some basic food words and the words for our meals and drawing the pictures to match!

Next month we will do some review and then dive into another new unit!

For the arts, we finished with Music and began January with our Visual Arts!

We started by learning the art elements and then doing a project to show our understanding. We started with lines, then colours, and then shapes, and we will continue on in February with some more elements and art pieces! We are having a lot of fun with our art and wish every day was Art day!

Pink Shirt Day Wednesday, February 28th



ST. BASIL'S SCHOOL

What's happening in February?

Ash Wednesday Mass

Wednesday, February 14th

St. Basil's Church

10:00 AM

Everyone Welcome

After School Art Club

Grade 4-8

Every second Wednesday
Beginning February 21.



Free Pancake Lunch
for staff and students

Shrove Tuesday
February 13, 2024



Thank You!

Silver Lake Resources!

Silver Lake Resources Ontario
has made a very generous donation
to our school snack program!



Monday February 12th

Royal Canadian Legion Public Speaking Competition

St. Basil's School Gym

Thursday, February 22

12:30 PM

First place winners are eligible to
compete in the Zone finals in Massey
on Saturday, March 2nd.

Reminders

Please be sure your child is dressed for the weather to play outside and to walk to the public library with their classmates. Have hats, mitts, and ski pants at school every day. Please ensure younger children have a change of indoor clothing including socks.

Wet winter weather can make clothing quite soggy.