



DECEMBER 2023

ST. BASIL'S NEWS

THOUGHTS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Hello families and Happy December!

We have had a busy November at St. Basil's filled fun and learning. Our students participated in the Remembrance Day Poster contest at the Royal Canadian Legion and our students made some amazing posters! We commemorated Remembrance Day with a service at our school to honour the veterans and thank them. We had some fun theme days in November including Jersey Day and Pajama Day, stay tuned to our Facebook pages for updates on the fun theme days coming up in December!

UPCOMING THIS MONTH

In December we have a lot of fun events to look forward to. We will be having themed days every Friday to get in the Christmas spirit! We will also be doing a movie afternoon with a canteen, a skating afternoon and of course our Christmas Play! With Advent beginning on Sunday December 3, we will be preparing for the birth of Jesus Christ as a school. We will be learning about the themes for each week of Advent, lighting the candles and doing activities to prepare for the arrival of Jesus. We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with students and their families throughout the month of December.

VIRTUE OF THE MONTH

Our Virtue winners for the month of November and the Virtue of Wisdom were:

K/1/2 – River Lavallee
Gr. 2-4 – Breleigh Best
Gr. 5-8 – Kalen Price
FSL/Arts – Emma Wilson

Kindness awards for showing leadership and making kind choices went to: Isaac Acs, Casey Walsh and Gianna Beauvais.

Way to go Bears!



**Last Day of School for
Staff & Students
Friday, December 22nd**

**Return to School
Monday, January 8,
2024**

Kindergarten Grade One & Two

NEWS

December arrived in the blink of an eye! The students are working hard in the classroom and time is flying. The hallways are filled with some amazing writing activities by the students and their duotangs are full of work! This group is so hardworking and loves learning. It's very exciting to watch their growth the past couple of months.

The Y1 and Y2 students are really enjoying learning two letters per week from the Open Court Program. They are eager to share their knowledge and are so excited to brainstorm words that begin with that letter. They are perfecting their penmanship skills and love writing words! The Grade 1/2 students are becoming experts at writing sentences and challenging themselves to add extra detail. They are learning to perfect their printing, beginning with capital letters, ending with punctuation, and using finger spaces between their words. We will begin adding more to their writing to build their writing stamina. Each day, they are called up for Guided Reading and they come running! The confidence and excitement that they are reading is amazing to see! They are improving with their reading strategies to decode unfamiliar words and love reading new books each week. For the month of December, we will divide the three weeks into themes. Week 1 is Elf Week, Week 2 is Grinch Week, and Week 3 is the Polar Express Week. We will read books, make crafts, writing activities, and STEM activities! We are continuing our Open Court Program and we are so close to completing the alphabet! Way to go!

In Math, we begin a new Patterning unit. This unit involves recognizing, creating, and extending repeating patterns. They are going to identify the core of each pattern and find the pattern rule. The students will be introduced to new math learning games and will be perfecting their teamwork skills by solving problems together in small group settings.

We will be moving into a new Social Studies Unit: Roles and Responsibilities. This unit involves the students comparing home and school life, identifying significant people, respectful behaviour, features of our local community, and being responsible in our community. In STEM, the students will learn to build Christmas Trees, Build a table to hold Santa's milk and cookies, and to build a fence to keep the reindeer from getting loose. They love STEM challenges. Add in a Candy Cane Experiment or two! December is going to be fun.

We are beginning an amazing time of year...Advent! The students will read and explore the true meaning of Christmas, as they await the birth of Jesus.



Grade Two, Three, Four NEWS

Snowy wishes from the grade 2/3/4 class! We are excited for the season of Christmas and all that it brings!

This month will fly by with many new units to begin. In Math students will be learning about Financial Literacy, Fractions and Money, a perfect time to learn about how to save and value money for long term goals. Students will use coins and bills and will participate in some pretend shopping to calculate change.

We have earned 3 virtual coding sessions with trained coders and our class will enjoy this very much! Last year students created codes for Paw Patrol, Avengers and Minecraft characters, they loved it!

Students will learn how to make healthy choices during our Healthy Eating unit in Health as well as continue to develop cooperation and good sportsmanship skills through our daily activities and games. Please be sure your children come ready for outdoor play too!



Advent is here and our class will listen to stories about the days before Jesus' birth and how important December 25th, his birthday is for Christians. We will celebrate through prayers, writings and discussions.

Our UFLI lessons in Language for grade 2 students are going very well! They are enjoying the interactive lessons and are really engaged. We have been working on our short vowel sounds, reading and writing words with them and will continue to practice irregular words and letters sounds this month.

Grade 3's and 4's will develop their knowledge of proper nouns, possessive pronouns, apostrophe and quotation marks in their writing as well as spending time developing reading, spelling and syllable skills while using Lexia. All students will be creating an ad through the use of posters, commercials or role play to sell a product and will present it to their peers. It will be a lot of fun!

Social Studies will cover Changing Family and Community Traditions in grade 2, Communities in Canada from 1780-1850 in grade 3 and Early Societies in 1500 CE for the grade 4's. Students will focus on a specific topic and create a pamphlet or short magazine that represents their topic.

Wishing you and your family a restful and healthy holiday season!

Grade Five to Eight

FSL & THE ARTS

I'm happy that November is finally over. The Grade 5/6/7/8 Class has been working very hard, and everyone, myself included is looking forward to the Christmas break with anticipation. November was challenging with all the cold, grey, wet days outside, and long division, equations, percentages, and procedural writing inside. Students were happy to move on to new topics in understanding mental health, and history (Communities In Canada: Past and Present). We're all very happy to see the snow and think ahead to some fun outdoor winter activities.

Prior to the Christmas break, I would like to ask parents to help their students maintain the learning gains they've made over the last few months. I ask you to "encourage" your student to read daily: even a half hour a day would be great, but more would be better. I will make sure students have books from our library and the public library to take home before the break. Please also make them do some mathematical thinking, for example, working with recipes to bake Christmas cookies or something (or doing fifteen multiplication and division questions each day).

I wish every family the best: a Holy Christmas with family and friends, and a positive and happy New Year.

Mr. Boucher

Goodbye November and Hello December!! We have finally made it to my favourite month!

In French for November we really focused on preparing ourselves for winter! We worked on learning the French words for winter clothing, and the older grades have been learning to use these words in sentences!

When we finished with winter clothing, we moved onto winter sports! We learned the different words for the sports and we wrapped up our unit by inventing our own winter sports, complete with a mascot! We also did some research on famous Olympian Athletes and did a French write up about them!

For Music we have been learning how to read sheet music and how to identify what notes match certain piano keys!

For December we are going to shift to CHRISTMAS!! We are going to learn a whole bunch of new vocabulary words all centering around "Noel."

We are also going to be adding singing to our music lessons as we practice some songs for the Christmas play!

Have a wonderful December!! Enjoy all the wonderful snow!

Ms. Ashley

ST. BASIL'S SCHOOL

What's happening in December?

Mass - December 14th

Skating - December 19

Please return your signed permission form as soon as possible!

Please return all sold and unsold raffle tickets by December 19

St. Basil's School Presents



Thursday, December 21st.

1:00 & 7:00

Everyone Welcome!

Entry by Silver Collection * Penny Table *

Bake Sale - Raffle - Flowers

Mass at St. Basil's Church

December 14 - 10:45 AM

December 24 - 10:30 PM

Christmas Day - No Mass

December 31 - 2:00 PM

We will be having a Pizza lunch and a Hot Dog Day lunch. Order forms will be sent home or you can purchase them on School Cash.



January Milk orders Due

December 21st - \$ 18.00

<https://hscdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Christmas Inflatables Raffle

Tickets are available for a draw for one of two Christmas inflatables.

Proceeds from the draw will be used for our student snack program and for lunch items for students who may occasionally need a lunch

Tickets are \$2. each or 3 for \$5 and will be drawn December 21

Reminders

Don't forget the Theme Days throughout the month of December

Christmas Socks - December 1

Christmas Character - December 8

Christmas Hat - December 15

PJ Day - December 18

Ugly Christmas Sweater - December 22