

NOVEMBER 2011

Well it is November already. The time is just flying by! We have gotten off to a great start. The children have been working very hard and are accomplishing many awesome things.

We want to welcome Ms. White to our classroom for the month of November. Ms. White is from Walpole Island and she is completing her second student teaching placement with Queen's University in our classroom! YAY!



What are we learning?

READING

We are well on our way in our Reading Workshop groups. Children are participating in hands-on activities to help develop their reading and writing skills. Each child has their own book bag with 6 or 7 books inside. I have seen the results of our home reading program already. Your children are becoming excited about reading and their confidence is growing. Continue reading with your child each night and remember to fill out the home reading recording sheet so that your child can earn a new book to keep!

MATHEMATICS

We have finished our sorting and patterning units and are half way through our early number sense unit. We are working with numbers to 20 in this unit.

SCIENCE/SOCIAL STUDIES

We have finished learning about the parts of the body and the functions of these parts. Our healthy lifestyles unit is well under way as well! This week, we will be learning a lot about peace and how we can create peace in our classroom, school, community, and family. We have been discussing significant people in our lives and we will soon be starting to look at constructing simple maps.

The ARTS

We will be continuing to learn about rhythm, repetition, and rhyme through our use of poetry and song. The children have started their poetry and song books and we are singing our hearts out! We also have a special visitor coming to our school again this year to teach our students about dance, and with her help, they will be putting together an awesome dance routine! Details to come...



TOP SECRET

Starting next week we will be getting ready for our Christmas assembly! We have some very exciting plans! Our class and Miss. Padfield's Grade 2 class have been given the responsibility of putting together our Christmas assembly. Among other things, we will be creating a Christmas play! It is top secret as of yet...but details will be coming soon!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



DAY PLANNERS – Please check your child's day planner every night. I will be putting my initials in your child's day planner every day so that you know I have checked them. I will be making a greater effort to write messages to you each week regarding your child's progress. Remember to return these day planners each day so that your child can earn a coupon for free pizza!



PROGRESS REPORTS - Progress reports will be sent home on November 30.



INDOOR SHOES – Thank you, thank you, thank you to those parents who have left indoor shoes at school. This is so helpful. Our carpets will stay cleaner because of you! Your child needs a pair of running shoes that can be left in his or her cubby!



Physical/Health Education

We have finished our cooperative games unit in Gym and we are now beginning to develop our ball handling skills. Dodgeball and Pinball are just a couple of the organized games that we will be learning to play in November. We have successfully completed our SAFE CHILD program through the Health Centre and the children are becoming very good at speaking up for themselves! We will also be looking at how our body grows and develops (i.e. infant, child, teenager, adult, senior).

If you would like to obtain more information on the Grade 1 curriculum, please visit:
<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/grades.html>

Our Instructional Approaches at Hillside School:

- Modelled
 - Teacher demonstrates skill/concept/process/convention (i.e. Read Aloud)

- Shared
 - Collaboration and cooperation
 - Learning from each other!
 - Encourages communication
 - Pairs, small groups, or large group

- Guided
 - Teacher guides students through a particular skill/concept
 - Used to reinforce or introduce skill/concept/process/convention

- Independent
 - Explore concepts
 - Practice skills
 - Communicates understanding
 - Develops perseverance and self-confidence
 - An opportunity to demonstrate what they know and what they can do!

How can you help?

Here are some websites that you can visit with your child:

<http://www.primarygames.com/kids/games/>

<http://pbskids.org/>

<http://www.tvokids.com/>

More activities...

1. Play letter and word games (i.e. Scrabble). Rhyming and riddle games are fun too.
2. Visit the library
3. Make grocery lists, read recipes, read the newspaper, sing songs, look at signs while driving, read labels in the grocery store – anything!
4. Have your child help you sort the laundry, cook dinner, set the table
5. Communicate with your child and engage in conversations
6. Let your child see you read!

