



# March Newsletter

## 2T and 2B

March 1<sup>st</sup> 2012

### Math Makes Sense

We are currently working on developing strategies for adding and subtracting 1-digit numbers. You can help your child at home by doing with them some of the following activities, as suggested in the "Math Makes Sense" teachers' guide:

- Share addition and subtraction story problems about things in your neighbourhood.
- Have your child build a set of 5 to 9 pennies and then add 1, 2, or 3 pennies to that number. Have your child tell the addition sentence. Then take away the same number of pennies and have your child tell the subtraction sentence.
- With your child, look around the home for items that come in equal sets. Discuss what happens if you add items or take a few items away.
- When you set the table, have your child add groups of items on the table (forks, knives, and glasses). Try adding them in a different order. Have your child explain why the order doesn't matter.
- When you spend leisure time with your child, pose different missing parts problems. Have your child explain how he or she figured out the answer.
- When you solve everyday subtraction problems, ask your child questions such as, "What do we already know?" "What piece is missing?"
- Use two digits to write and solve addition sentences with your child. For example, if the digits are 8 and 9, the sentence is  $8+9=17$ .
- Ask your child to tell a number story using a double or near doubles.
- Watch for situations where your child can use a strategy to add or subtract 1-digit numbers.

### Websites of the Month

Check out the following:

<http://www.ictgames.com>

<http://www.maths-games.org>

<http://www.sheppardsoftware.com>

### March Break

Just a reminder that there are no classes from March 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> due to March Break. We would like to wish everyone a wonderful holiday; see you on the 12<sup>th</sup>!!

### Continuing With the Writing Traits

In order to achieve appropriate development on the writing portion of the Grade Two Provincial Literacy Assessments being written this spring, students must achieve a pass in each of the five trait areas (Content, Organization, Sentence Structure, Conventions, and Word Choice). Continuing from last month, there follows a brief description of what would be considered acceptable for the next two traits:

#### Writing Achievement Standards Appropriate Achievement

#### Sentence Structure (variety and complexity of sentences)

- use mostly simple and compound sentence structures; many are complete
- include a few longer sentences and/or sentences which begin in different ways (e.g., nouns, pronouns, phrases)

#### Conventions (spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage (grammar))

- use correct end punctuation (e.g., periods, question marks, exclamation marks) in many sentences
- use capital letters for proper nouns (e.g., people, days of the week, months, familiar place names), first word in sentences, and pronoun "I" in many cases; may capitalize some words unnecessarily
- spell many high-frequency words correctly; attempt to spell longer, more complex words using phonetic approximations
- use many basic pronouns and verbs correctly; may make some errors (e.g., She maked a cake.)

### A Bit of Humour:

Q. What's Irish and stays out on the lawn all summer?  
A. Paddy O'Furniture!

Q. What does it mean when you find a horseshoe?  
A. Some poor horse is going around barefoot!

Q. What do you call a fake stone in Ireland?  
A. A **SHAM** rock!

Knock Knock!  
Who's there?  
Irish!  
Irish Who?  
Irish you a Happy St. Patrick's Day!