



May Newsletter

2T and 2B

May 1st 2012

Math Makes Sense

We are presently working on our measurement unit. 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:

- Have your child compare and order objects in your home using words such as longest/shortest and heaviest/lightest. Ask your child to explain how he or she compared them.
- Make a weekly calendar with your child. Talk about the family schedule and what happens on each day of the week. Have your child identify the day of the week and the date tomorrow and yesterday.
- Mark a calendar for the current month with your child to show dates of any holidays and special events.
- Make a chart of the months of the year and record the birthdays of family members and friends.
- Choose three objects in your home that you and your child can measure and order by length (for example, kitchen utensils, sports equipment) using units such as paper clips or unsharpened pencils.
- Ask your child to explain why you need to use the same units for each length when ordering length.
- Your child can measure objects and distances in your home using their hand span, arm span, giant steps, or heel-to-toe steps. Encourage your child to estimate before measuring.
- Have children use non-standard units to measure around the wrists and ankles of different family members or friends, and then have them compare and order the measurements.
- Have your child estimate the masses of objects at home. For example, ask: "About how many of these spoons are as heavy as this bowl?"
- Invite your child to practise measuring length, height, distance around, and mass while helping to purchase new clothes or recording their growth.

Websites of the Month

Check out the following:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/Spring/SpringMaths.aspx?age=ks2>

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/math/>

<http://www.penguin.net.nz/>

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

We are completing our project-based learning block on First Nations (Mi'kmaq) culture. The children have participated in such traditional activities as basket-making, drumming and chanting, and dyeing fabric using berry juice. We are hoping to have the opportunity to sample a traditional meal of moose meat stew and luskinagan (bread), and have invited a visitor from Metepenagiag (Red Bank) First Nation to come and talk to the students. To celebrate the completion of our studies, we are planning a field trip to the Metepenagiag Heritage Park/Interpretive centre later this month.

Provincial Literacy Assessments

As mentioned in previous newsletters, students in grade two are writing Provincial Literacy Assessments this month, from May 24th - 31st. We have been busy preparing for this very important event and would like to take a moment to remind you of a few things.

In order to help ensure that students perform to the best of their ability, please keep the following in mind:

Your child should

- go to bed at a good time and be well rested
- eat a nice healthy breakfast so that he/she is energized and ready to write
- be at school (unless absolutely impossible) and on time each day during the assessment period

We would like to thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation and support. The results of the assessments will be made available sometime in early fall. We know that the children will work hard to do their best. 😊

A Bit of Humour:

Q. What season is it when you are on a trampoline?
A. Spring-time!

Q. What flowers grow on faces?
A. Tulips (Two-lips)!

Q. Why is the letter A like a flower?
A. A bee (B) comes after it!

Q. Why do birds fly south in the winter?
A. Because it's too far to walk!

Q. Mary's mother has four children. Their names are Summer, Fall, Winter, and ?
A. Mary, of course!