



April Newsletter

2T and 2B

April 1st 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.readingrockets.org/>

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

<http://www.resources.kaboose.com/>

Project-Based Learning (PBL)

We are excited to be starting a six-week block of project-based learning. The grade two students will be exploring Native culture through various activities which address different learning styles, interests, and abilities. Watch for more information to follow!!

Continuing With the Writing Traits

As mentioned in previous newsletters, students in grade two are writing Provincial Literacy Assessments this spring, and in order to attain appropriate development on the writing portion, they 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 final trait on which students are assessed, Word Choice, as well as a sneak peek at a sixth trait, Voice, to which they are just introduced in grade two.

Writing Achievement Standards Appropriate Achievement

Word Choice (vocabulary, language, and phrasing)

- make many ordinary word choices, possibly some repetition
- may include a few descriptive words or phrases

Voice (evidence of author's style, personality, and experience)

- begin to show some awareness of audience according to purpose (e.g., write a letter "to" someone)
- demonstrate some basic knowledge of and/or interest in subject

A Bit of Humour:

Q. What happened to the egg when he was tickled too much?

A. He cracked up.

Q. What do you call a sleeping egg?

A. Egg-zosted!

Q. Why does Peter Cottontail hop down the bunny trail?

A. Because his parents won't let him borrow the car!

Q. What day does an egg hate the most?

A. Fry-days.