

# October Newsletter 2T and 2B



October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

## A Few Reminders

Wow; hard to believe, but here we are with one month in already!! Where has the time gone??!!

We would like to remind you of the following few very important points to keep in mind:

- When your child is absent from school, please send a **dated, signed note** explaining why he/she was out.
- Please send any monies to school in a wallet or baggie **labelled with your child's name and a note** explaining for what the money is intended.
- **Children need to be signed in** when arriving late for class **and must be signed out** when being picked up early by a parent.
- Please **inform the school right away** of any change in address or phone number throughout the year.
- Please remember that, due to allergies, we are a **nut-free school**.
- Bussing: **Students are not permitted to travel on a bus other than that assigned without a bus pass**, which requires a signed note from home **and** the permission of the District Transportation Manager/Officer. In order for a pass to be granted, sufficient time must be allowed to make the necessary contacts and gain approval from D.O. Please understand that, without the aforementioned, teachers are required to send children home on their regular busses.

## Math Facts

It is very important that students have a firm grasp of their addition and subtraction facts in order to experience success with the math that they will encounter in the coming years. Soon, we will be sending home math facts to be practised on a regular basis. We will be testing the students periodically to determine how familiar they are with these facts and to ensure that they are ready to advance to the more difficult ones that they will be expected to know automatically by the end of this year.

## Websites of the Month

This corner is a feature each month in our grade two newsletter. Look here for fun and educational websites that your child can visit at home in order to reinforce what is being taught at school.

<http://www.ixl.com/math/grade/second/>  
[www.learnalberta.com](http://www.learnalberta.com)  
[www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com)  
[www.pbskids.org/halloween/](http://www.pbskids.org/halloween/)

## Introducing Fast ForWord™

We would like to take this opportunity to talk a little more about the Fast ForWord™ computer program, in which all grade two students in the former District 16 participate. This initiative began seven years ago and has proven very beneficial to students' literacy learning.

Through the various exercises completed, four domains are strengthened: memory, attention, processing, and sequencing. The program is self-paced, allowing students to progress at their own rate. The protocol is forty minutes per day for about twelve weeks.

Soon, students will begin working on Reading 1, through which the following skills are developed: phonemic awareness; word recognition, decoding, and spelling; vocabulary; sentence comprehension; and paragraph comprehension. These skills are reinforced through the daily completion of six games: Bear Bags, Flying Fish, Magic Rabbit, Bedtime Beasties, Quail Mail, and Buzz Fly. (It is possible that some students may bypass Reading 1, if their initial Fast ForWord assessment results indicate that they are ready to start off working at a higher level.) When students have achieved a certain level of proficiency, the computer will indicate that they are to be moved up to the more complex Reading 2, and even possibly to Reading 3, eventually.

Traditionally, the children very much enjoy their Fast ForWord™ time and look forward to going to the lab each day. We will keep you informed of your child's progress in the coming weeks.



## Laugh of the Day

Why are skeletons so calm, cool, and collected?



Because nothing gets under their skin!!

What's the best game to play at Hallowe'en?



Hide and Shriek!!