Grade 5 at Onondaga
...a fantastic place to be!

“TIME FLIES WHEN YOU’RE HAVING FUN!”

A message from Ms. Currie

Wow! September has been an amazing month! What a fantastic, eager, energetic, creative bunch of grade 5 students! I believe we have gotten off to a great start for our 2009-2010 school year.

It was fantastic to meet most parents on meet the teacher night. Having loving, committed and caring adults in their lives is the greatest assets a student could hope for.

If September is our ‘Tell Tale’ we are in for a year that is going to fly! I really look forward to what the rest of the year brings!

READING TIME BY BRANDON

There are lots of books in our classroom, if you open them you can travel around the world! You can even travel out of this world and learn about Outer Space!

In reading class we are able to find a place that is nice and comfy to curl up and read! We read for about 25 minutes a day. While students are reading Ms. Currie is conferencing with students one at a time. A reading conference is when Ms. Currie checks in with students to see what they are reading and where they are in their books. She checks to make sure that the book is at the student’s ‘Just Right’ reading level. She marks down in a ‘conference book’ the student’s reading goals and other information about their reading.

Tribe Agreements

In Ms. Currie’s grade 5 class we are learning about Tribe Agreements: Mutual Respect, Right to Pass, Right to Participate, Attentive Listening, No Putdowns and Appreciation. So far all kids are using our tribe agreements.

In our classroom we made posters of the Tribe Agreements to show what they sound like, look like and feel like. We signed the Tribe Agreement to show that we understand them and agree with them.

If we still all use our tribe agreements then we should have a fantastic year!

-Courtney Bredin-
SPORTS INCORPORATED...PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Collaboratively written by all students in Grade 5

We are having a lot of fun in sports at Onondaga Brant!

There is a baseball tournament coming up! Here are the team players in Grade 5: Brittany Perry, Sam Book, Breah Sauve and Melissa Bezemer. Congratulations! Good luck on the tournament on October 8th at Lions Park

Cross country is coming up on the 14th of October. The race will be at Brant Park. So far, the team has not been announced, all students are anxiously awaiting the posting of the team list.

Soccer tryouts are coming up. Here are the coaches: Mrs. Fletcher is the head coach and Ms. Currie is the Co:Coach. Tryouts will be held over the next week. There was lots of interest for the tournament. Lots of students tried out last year and a lot of them made it, others are trying to make the team for the first time. The tournament is scheduled for October 27th.

Good luck in all of your tryouts and tournaments! We look forward to a year of fitness and fun.

TECHNOLOGY: computers and our classroom blog

On the computers we have been talking about blogs, but right now the blogs are postponed because we have to get permission for accessing them. Attached to this newsletter is a permission form for parents to sign so that students may access and participate in our classroom blog.

We have been going into Wordperfect to work on our Narratives. Ms. Currie showed us how to center our titles, use spell check, change fonts and edit our work. *By Breah

We are 21st Century Learners! We need to learn to use the computer as a tool to help us express our selves, make connections to the rest of the world and extend our learning experience beyond the walls of our classroom!

Parents, please see the attached permission form. By signing this form you will allow your child to access and participate in our classroom blog and other on line activities.

*All internet activities promote and educate students about ‘Digital Citizenship’.

HOMEWORK WRITTEN BY KEATON

Homework is good because it helps you study at home for things that you are working on in class. It also helps you for tests and spelling. Right now in our class we have had barely any homework, but the homework we do get is hard, but not harder than dirt biking. For homework we had was to complete our Mandala art project. We also had to study our Three Times Tables. One night we had to work on our narratives. The hardest assignment was the time we had to compare three rectangles in as many ways as possible (area, perimeter, geometric attributes). One night we had to have a discussion with an adult at home about politics and what was happening with the government.
GOVERNMENT IN OUR CLASSROOM

We are learning about government. We are hoping to be making our own classroom government. Our classroom has a bulletin board where we post Questions, answers and comments on chart paper. We also post our vocabulary for the unit. One of our class members also brought in two photographs from Ottawa to help us understand government. We are even learning about what connects to government like how H1N1 and farms are connected, meat factories, jobs, people getting laid off.

Once we learn enough about Canadian Government we will come home and tell you all about it. Written by Max and Karlee.

WE ALL PITCH IN TO MAKE OUR CLASSROOM WORK BY KAITLYN

In our classroom jobs everyone has a job to do at the end of the day. Five minutes before the bell rings we do our jobs. We have jobs like sweeping, washing desks, and stacking chairs. We also have group jobs like ‘Bin Master’, ‘Chair Queen or King’ and ‘Paper and Book Collector’. The jobs help make our classroom clean and tidy.

RUNNING FOR CLASS PRIME MINISTER BY SAM BOOK

Class elections are coming up! Everyone is bursting with excitement! Almost everyone wants to be Prime Minister. Once we learn about Government elections we are going to run our class election almost exactly like a real election in the Canadian government. It’s just exciting thinking about it.

From Ms. Currie the class government will discuss and prioritize social justice issues that relate to children around the world. We will find out how even students in Grade 5 have it in them to make a difference, to be an everyday hero. We will also work towards school wide social activities and even running a events for our parents! Stay tuned for more!

OUR MORNINGS BY MELISSA

Every morning we look forward to what activities we will be doing from 8:45 until lunch time. Once we sit down in the morning there is always a morning message on the board. After we finish the message we do independent reading. Also in the morning we do Writer’s Workshop where we write our memoirs and narratives. Our mornings are very interesting and exciting.

SPELLING IS ENTERTAINING

By Alana

Our classroom is inspired with spelling because we have learning buddies that our teacher assigned us. It is very cool. Spelling buddies are fun and helpful with our spelling tests and different activities. Spelling comes from our work. Our teachers picks our word lists from the words that are not spelled right in our work. When we have a spelling test, we partner up with our learning buddy and we each give each other our words.

We learned this month how to break up words into syllables to help us spell. The secret is that each syllable has a vowel in it!

FRENCH

It has been quite the exciting time in French. So far, so good! Madame is the school’s popular French teacher, she makes french fun. She makes learning fun. She makes everything fun! She makes french so easy, but in case you get stuck she’s always there to help. Madam is lots of fun. Written by:
INFO CENTRAL

Math Fun Past and Present

Grade 5 math is exciting and easy because we all have fun! Our teacher does cool and awesome activities with us. We use colour tiles, grid paper, measuring tools, trundle wheels, calculators, picture books and lots of big chart paper! We enjoy our learning environment because our teacher helps us in every way, shape and form she can. We couldn’t ask for a better teacher!

By:

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open Stage Coffee Hour
Thursday November 6th  4:00 p.m.

The authors in Grade 5 have been working extremely hard during ‘Writer’s Workshop’. They are each in the process of publishing a piece of writing. It is important that our students have the opportunity to share their work, so we will be hosting parents in our portable!

We hope to make this a regular event!

Book Swap
Collection: Monday October 26th - 28th

Does your child, or children, have shelves or boxes of used books sitting around the house? Would you like an opportunity to trade them in for different books? The students of Grade 5 are going to collect ‘gently’ used books for three days. On the fourth day, there will be a trade session where each child goes home with different books! This helps to keep our home libraries entertaining for students.

Book Orders

In an effort to ‘beef up’ our classroom library and our student’s book selections at home Ms. Currie will be coordinating Scholastic Book Orders. This month’s orders are due on the 14th of October. All funds raised will be allocated by the student government to select new books for the class through democratic means. All students will have a voice in the book choices.

Picture Orders

Please don’t forget to order your child’s pictures! The due date for these is: ____________________

Calendar

October 12th
Thanksgiving

October 13th 3:05-4:00
After school cross country practice

October 14th
Cross country meet at Brant Park
October 15th is the rain date

October 14th
Book Orders due

October 26th-28th
Used book collection for book swap

October 27th
Soccer Tournament

October 29th
Grade 5 Book Swap

October 30th
Happy Halloween

November 6th
Open Mic Coffee Hour

Contributors

The students have written most of the articles for this month’s newsletter. I will admit, however, that due to time, I edited and published them into this document. Each month, the students will have more and more control of publishing out school letter.