

December 2, 2011

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

It is time to say good-bye to our teacher candidate, Mr. Pruyzers. The students have enjoyed helping him as he learned how to manage a classroom and prepare lessons. We wish him continued success as returns to Lakehead University next week.

As we finish our unit on 2-D geometry, we prepare for a focus on data management. The grade four students will create **double bar graphs** and **stem-and-leaf** plots to organize data. I know that when I was in elementary school, we did not use stem-and-leaf plots, so you may not know what they are. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to teach you what they have learned in class. The grade fives will be producing **broken-line graphs** to present data. Both grades will continue to examine the **averages** of a set of data. In grade three, students found the **mode** (the number that appeared most often in a set of data). Grade fours will determine the **median**, which is the middle value in a set of data that has been arranged in order. The fives will figure out the **mean**, which is the type of average that you are probably most familiar with. All students will be required to interpret information presented in tables, charts and graphs. They will then use the information to problem solve.

To support the classroom learning, your child can do the following activities as homework:

collect data about time spent on various activities during the week; predict what will take up most of their time and what involves the least amount of time; compare their predictions to the actual data collected

collect examples of graphs from newspapers, magazines and the internet; examine how the graphs are presented and what is their purpose

In past newsletters, I have addressed reading and writing. Let me share some plans for oral communication and media. Currently, we are looking at the traits of an active listener. Your child will also have the opportunity to improve his/her speaking skills as we will soon begin a unit on public speaking. To enhance our media studies, I have registered the class in a *Creative Design-an-Ad Contest* for the new year. After engaging in an exploration of *The Hamilton Spectator* and print advertising, students take on the role of creative designers and develop an advertisement for a local business. Winning ad designs are chosen by the ad client and featured in a special section on the newspaper in February. Watch for further details.

Finally, it is hard to believe that in two weeks we will off for the holidays. Enjoy this special time with your families. These are the times that your child will remember for a lifetime. Happy Holidays.

Working together to educate your child,

*C. Mejski*