

# Cabin Fever Cabin Fever



September 13, 2011

We have had a great first week of school and the children are settling into classroom and school routines nicely. Thank you for the support and help in preparing your child for this exciting new school year.

## **The Daily 5- Language Block**

This year our literacy program is the practice of The Daily 5. Most of the students in the class are familiar with this structure to our language block as it was introduced last year to Smith students. For those who are new to the school; this literacy program is based on learning and motivation research. It is a series of tasks (reading to self, reading with someone, writing, word work and listening to reading) which the students complete daily. Independent work gives the teacher the opportunity to meet with small groups to provide specific instruction, as well as have one on one conference time to set literacy goals. Every child's program is tailored specifically to their needs to grow as a language learner. The program provides a structure for intensive teaching in short time periods that then allows for the development of daily reading, writing and work habits. The children build on their reading and writing stamina throughout the year and develop independence for their own learning. There is extensive information about The Daily 5 on the internet if you are interested. I am also willing to offer a parent night or simply meet with any parent that is interested in learning more about The Daily 5. Please just indicate that you would like more information in the agenda. Last years students made great stride and showed huge growth in literacy and our EQAO results also indicate the success of this style of teaching and learning.

## **CAFE**

A key component to the Daily 5 is reading. Reading is a skill that we use in all areas of our lives and at school in every subject. In order to teaching solid reading skills it is important to break down the components of reading and teach them in isolation to children. To do this effectively I use the CAFE Menu board. CAFE stands for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanded Vocabulary. Under each of these titles are specific strategies that help children break down the task of reading. It is also important to look at these reading strategies separately as I can determine what specific area(s) is (are) preventing a child from growing as a reader. To keep you involved in this process I will be sending home a Parent Pipeline (one page note) to let you know what strategy we have just covered in class and how you can support at home. When I conference with your child and together we determine the strategy that they should be working on I will send a note home so you can provide support. You child should be reading a minimum of 15 minutes a night. Reading is an excellent way to wind down before bed.

## **Mathematics**

The unit of study this month in Mathematics is Patterning. Both the Grade 3 and 4 students will be working through the first chapter of their textbook. The Grade 3 students were eager to learn how to work within a textbook for the first time and all the students are learning the expectations of notebook organization. The patterning unit will take 3 weeks to complete. Upon the completion of each math unit there will be a unit test/quiz where the students can show what they have learned within the unit. Students from time to time will have homework. It is only assigned if work is not completed in class (which they are given ample time to do). However to reinforce the concepts taught in class I suggest that if you have access to a computer that your child visits the Nelson Math Website, [mathk8.nelson.com](http://mathk8.nelson.com), and enter into the **Student Center** and complete the **Try It** activities. They are a review from each lesson taught. This is an excellent computer based practice resource and home-link. There is also a Parent Center where you can learn what is being taught in each unit and how you can provide support at home.

## **Loose Ends**

- **Word Wall Word Quizzes-** On Mondays your child will write new words in the agenda that they are working on for that week. These words contain spelling patterns that fit with the spelling rule(s) that we are learning. Your child will be quizzed on these words on Friday and also quizzed on the spelling rule.
- **Small Binder-** Every student needs to bring in a small binder. In class we create anchor charts that help us remember a variety of different processes, rules, and concepts. For example; these charts are created to help us prepare for word wall word quizzes, math tests etc. In every subject we use anchor charts. A small binder will provide a place to store these charts for quick reference. I know the dollar store has very basic binders.
- **Indoor Shoes-** We want to keep our cabin clean. As the weather gets wetter indoor footwear is required in the cabin. Your child will need running shoes for gym, but in the cabin they may prefer slippers as they are easier to get on and off.
- **Gym clothes-** gym clothes are not a requirement, but most children feel more comfortable changing into clothes they can move more easily in and then changing back so they are not sweaty for their next class. Running shoes are a must for safety.
- **Agenda-** on Mondays in the agenda there will be a sticky that lets you know our focus for that week in Literacy and Math. I will also note any tests or assignments that your child may need home time to prepare for. The Agenda is key to our communication, but you can also call the school or e-mail me [kara.baranoski1@gmail.com](mailto:kara.baranoski1@gmail.com)

**I am looking forward to this year in the Cabin! We had a great first week and so much more excitement and learning to come.**

Sincerely,  
Mrs. B.