

October News  
Grade 1/2  
St. John Paul II School  
Mrs. Cardo



It is hard to believe that October begins on Monday! Even though school has been in session for 4 weeks, we are just finishing our second week as a new class. My first goal has been to establish a community where each individual feels valued and comfortable taking risks and making mistakes. Each teacher is different in his/her approach to how he/she teaches a split grade class and I know parents are sometimes concerned about how their child will be taught the curriculum for that grade, so here is an outline of my approach.

### Reading, Writing, Oral Communication and Media Literacy

**READING** - There are four types of reading that we practice in the classroom - Read Alouds (teacher-led reading), Independent Reading (individual student reading), Shared Reading (large group reading) and Guided Reading (small group reading). I am in the process of reading with individual students to determine reading strategies used by each student. Once I have read with each student, I will create guided reading groups. These groups are based on need, rather than grade. Courier bags with readers and reading logs will go home on a daily basis. (Grade 1 courier bags will also have a word ring to practice sight words). In a perfect world, readers would be changed once a week. Sometimes our schedule isn't perfect. If a student has read each book twice with good fluency, please select another book from your own collection for him/her to read aloud to you at home. Please do not use the courier bag for the agenda or library books.

One note on the guided reading texts - Unfortunately, guided reading texts have numbers/letters on them that indicate the "level" of the book. Please discourage your child from focussing on this number. The texts that go home should be easy for your son/daughter to read with perhaps one or two challenging (but not impossible) words per page. We are building reading strategies as well as comprehension strategies and most importantly a love for reading and discovering!

**WRITING** - The format I will be using this year is a Writer's Workshop format. Writer's Workshop involves four elements: a mini-lesson, writing time, conferencing and sharing time. The wonderful thing about writing is that it is open-ended. Students will be encouraged to use the strategies taught during the mini-lesson as they write. Spelling strategies will also be reviewed during our writing block.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION**- Students will be given many opportunities to talk and to listen to their peers.

**MEDIA LITERACY**- Students will create texts, posters, and booklets using a variety of media forms.

## MATH

The Math program has 5 strands - Number Sense and Numeration; Patterning and Algebra; Geometry and Spatial Sense; Measurement and Data Management and Probability. The focus for both grades will be Number Sense and Numeration and Patterning and Algebra. Typically, students will gather together for the first part of a lesson. This gives students in Grade 2 a chance to review concepts while building new knowledge. Then each grade will be given a different activity to practice a set of skills. For example, students in Grade 1 will complete activities that involve comparing numbers to 50; students in Grade 2 will complete activities that involve comparing numbers to 100.

## RELIGION

In Religion, I will be combining elements from the Grade 1 and Grade 2 program: *Growing in Faith, Growing in Christ*. The first themes in the program are *I Am a Child of God* and *We Belong to God's Family*.

## SOCIAL STUDIES AND SCIENCE

Students will be taught the expectations from their respective grades. If we are doing a fun experiment, all students may participate even though it may not relate to their specific grade expectations. No one wants to be left out of a hands-on science task! 😊

## THE ARTS

During the first term, Mr. Tilley will teach the students Dance. I will teach Visual Art, Music and Drama.

Physical Education and Health - will be taught by Mr. Tilley on B days.

French will be taught by Mme Kotlarz on A days.

## UPCOMING DATES:

October 8 – Thanksgiving

October 31 – Halloween

November 2 – Picture Retakes

Thank you for all you do at home. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at the school or write a note in your child's agenda.



