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St. James Catholic School

November 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us on our trip to Nature’s Bounty! We had a great time, despite the rain! The children have enjoyed learning about pumpkins in the classroom. We learned about the pumpkin life cycle, we guessed how many seeds are inside our own class pumpkin, and painted pictures of pumpkins to decorate the hall!

The children are working on becoming more independent as they enter the classroom, as well as getting ready for recess and home time. Please continue to encourage this independence at home and help your child practice zippers and buttons so they will be prepared for the cold weather.

As you know, we have begun our study of the letters of the alphabet.  The children are learning the sounds that we say when we read the letters, as well as what the letters are called.  We are using the **Jolly Phonics** program as the basis of our study.  We have also started our “Letter Magic” work where we are practicing our letter formation. When letter sheets come home, have your child practise printing using proper pencil grasp. Your child should also continue practising printing his/her name beginning with a capital, followed by lowercase letters.

We have been exploring with patterning and have continued reviewing numbers and counting. Help your child find patterns around your home. Have them describe the patterns they find on clothing, quilts, etc. Continue to use real-life counting experiences to help students understand numbers.

We have attached the November Scholastic flyers. If you are interested in ordering any books for your child, please complete the order form and return it to us in your child’s communication bag by Friday, November 4th. If you are purchasing any books as Christmas gifts, please let us know and we can arrange a time for you to pick them up, rather than sending them home with your child. \*Cheques or online payment only please!

Thank you to the families who sent in Kleenex, wipes, and paper towel! If you are able to donate any of these items to our classroom it would be greatly appreciated.

We appreciate your efforts to send in Mr. Zippy each and every school day and to visit our website and read important reminders on the REMIND App. This information will help inform you of upcoming events in the classroom and school. Thank you for your continued support and participation!

We look forward to seeing you on Parent/Teacher Conference Night on November 9th to discuss your child’s progress. We will send home a note with available conference times this week.

Sincerely**,**

~Mrs. Simpson & Sister Cristina

Ideas of things you can do at home with your child:

* Play with play-dough to help strengthen the muscles in their hands
* Cut different lines on a page with scissors to enhance their fine motor skills
* Have your child set the table and count how many utensils you need to build numeracy and problem solving skills
* Explore the outdoors and ask your child what they wonder about
* Look at the pictures in a book and try to tell the story 
* Throw, roll and bounce a ball with one another to increase gross-motor skills
* Paint, draw, colour and create!
* practice writing their first and last name (capital at the beginning and then lower case letters to follow)
* practice writing letters (both capital and lower case letters)
* practice rote counting from 1-31 and beyond (you can count objects or just count numbers aloud)
* practice writing and recognizing numbers from 1-10 and beyond
* make patterns with household items - try making shape, colour and size patterns with objects you find
* Play board games that reinforce the concept of counting, colour recognition, turn taking, etc.