



We await the coming of Christ with expectant joy this
Advent.
Grade 3 December 2018

Dear Parents,

December has arrived and the students have been busy preparing for the second week of our Advent Assembly (along with Grade 5), our Christmas Concert, 'In a Galilee Far Far Away' and working hard to complete class work and seasonal activities.

December is a very exciting month, as we await the coming of Christ as well as all of the celebrations over the Christmas break. In the midst of this excitement, it is important to maintain good work habits (both in class and at home). Therefore, all homework needs to be completed, signed and submitted on time, as per usual.

Field trip in January!

Grade 3 will be going on a field trip on **January 24th 2019 to the Museum of Anthropology** as part of our Socials unit on local indigenous cultures. We will engage in two exciting programmes on this day; The 'Tree of Life' programme and 'Local indigenous plants'. More information on this field trip along with permission slips will be sent home in the coming week!

Curriculum focus for the month of December.

Religion: Advent, the Jesse Tree (reflective responses kept daily in prayer journal), the Liturgical calendar (colours, symbols and key scriptural focus for each season), Preparation for confession and Advent Assembly (Week 2 with Grade 5).

English Language Arts: Seasonal writing activities, reviewing books (orally and in writing), develop comprehension strategies (review *connections* and focus on *visualizing*). Paragraph writing and opinion writing.

Reading: Continue to develop fluency and expression. I would encourage students to continue to read for 15 minutes each day over the holidays.

Reading Power: Continue to develop The Power to Connect at a deeper level (Text to self, Text to text and Text to world. (Catholic worldview).

Develop **The Power to Visualize:** Using brain pockets and '**picture words**' from a text to connect more meaningfully to reading material. This reading power is strongly related to *The Power to Connect*.

Math: Developing **word problem solving skills** (integrated with Growth Mindset).

Identifying and implementing the steps in solving single and multi-step word problems: 1. Identify 'clue' words' 2. Draw a picture of your solution 3. Explain your solution in words 4. Show your solution as an equation 5. Share your solution with a partner and explain an alternative way to solve to problems.

Introduction to **multiplication** (using equal groups, arrays, repeated addition and skip counting to help them to understand this concept). While understanding multiplication and identifying uses of such a process in their daily life is important, I also strongly recommend that each student memorises their multiplication tables over the course of this month.

Science: Landforms in the local environment. Students will use our 'maker space' sessions to create a model of their own landform, representing key features.

Socials: Local Indigenous cultures: First Nations of British Columbia: Names of major clans, Aboriginal place names in BC, exploring the worldview of First Nations through Indigenous stories and legends (connect to local landforms and animals).

French: Seasonal vocabulary, *Silent Night* in French.

Career Education: Students will be learning about 'Growth Mindset' in class and how it positively impacts our way of approaching challenges, influencing our academic and social/emotional success.

Art: Seasonal art activities (Jesse Tree, manger scene, stockings, winter art).

Important dates to note:

Monday December 3rd: First Advent assembly.

Monday December 10th: Second Advent assembly (Grade 3 and 5).

Wednesday December 12th: Christmas concert dress rehearsal.

Thursday December 13th: Christmas concert: 1pm matinee performance and 7pm evening performance.

Friday December 14th: Late start. Students begin school at 10.30am.

Monday December 17th: Third Advent Assembly.

Tuesday December 18th: Confessions during school time.

Thursday December 20th: Class part (TBC).

Friday December 21st: Fourth Advent Assembly. Early dismissal at 1pm!

I look forward to another month with Grade 3!

Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.
Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and every
blessing for the New Year.

Le meas (Respectfully),

Miss Kinsella.

