



## Colonel Walker

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## Newsletter | April 2018

### Principal's Message

March was filled with many opportunities for students, teachers, support staff, parents and community organizations to collaborate and learn together.

Our literacy night, which was held in the evening on March 14, was a powerful example of how we can come together as a community. The student-led presentation and activities focused on exploring the many ways we use literacy in our daily lives, providing ideas for how parents may help support their child, and sharing the joy of learning together. I was delighted to see the energy, engagement and enthusiasm that was present throughout the school that evening. Thank you to all the families for contributing to the potluck dinner. Also, I would like to extend a special thanks to all the students involved in hosting the evening and to our staff for their efforts in making the night such a success.



Student reflection is an important part of effective self-assessment; it occurs “when students think about how their work meets established criteria; they analyze the effectiveness of their efforts, and plan for improvement” (Rolheiser, Bower, & Stevahn, 2000, p. 31). In our ongoing effort to engage students in self-assessment, we will be having student led conferences in the evening of April 11, providing students with an opportunity to reflect on their learning, select samples of their work that reflect their progress, and articulate to their parents what they know and can do, how they know this, and what their next steps are. Parents will be able to schedule a time through [My CBE](#). Teacher led conferences are also available on Friday, April 12 and can be booked in the same fashion as above.

At the end of April, we are excited to welcome Rebecca Ellison, an artist in residence, who will be working with our entire student body over an entire week in creating a mural, which will be installed outside near our school's main entrance. The theme of the project is working together from the past and into the future. I would like to extend my many thanks to parents, students, teachers and community members for contributing their ideas and making this project a truly collaborative endeavour.

I look forward to continuing our work together!

Chris Keuben

Together we grow



### Important Dates

#### Classes Resume

April 1

#### School Council

April 17 6:00pm-7:00pm

#### Parent Assoc. Meeting

April 17 7:00pm – 8:00pm

#### Good Friday – No School

April 19

#### Non-Instruction Day

April 22

#### Junior High Band Performance

April 25 9:30-10:30

#### Artist Residency

April 29 – May 3

#### Kindergarten Registration

Registration is ongoing. Please register at your earliest convenience to secure your child's spot in the CWS Kindergarten program!

## Cell Phones and Safety

Cell phones offer us many conveniences and allow us to stay connected digitally, but it has also resulted in us becoming increasingly disconnected from our surroundings. Each day pedestrians and drivers are killed as a result of distractions cause by our mobile devices.

Distractions affect a driver's ability to safely perform the driving task. Evidence shows that drivers whose attention is diverted away from the driving task for more than 2 seconds at a time are at increased risk of a crash. Drivers need to focus their full attention on the driving task (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration). Best practice is to turn your cell phone off or put it on do not disturb when you are in your car. Even hands-free devices can cause you to miss important visual and audio cues needed to avoid a crash. In addition, if you are parked to use your cell phone, please ensure that you perform a **complete check of your surroundings prior to putting your car into drive**.

Distracted walking is also becoming a significant issue. Each year, more and more people are injured as a result of texting, talking or listening to music while on their cell phones. "Today, more and more people are falling down stairs, tripping over curbs and other streetscapes and, in many instances, stepping into traffic, causing cuts, bruises, sprains, and fractures," said Alan Hilibrand, MD, chair of the AAOS Communications Cabinet. "In fact, the number of injuries to pedestrians using their phones has more than doubled since 2004, and surveys have shown that 60% of pedestrians are distracted by other activities while walking." If your child is using a cell phone or other mobile device, please review the following tips with your child:

- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street; looking left a second time is necessary because a car can cover a lot of distance in a short amount of time
- Make eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you
- Be aware of drivers even when you're in a crosswalk; vehicles have blind spots
- Don't wear headphones while walking
- Never use a cell phone or other electronic device while walking
- If your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic
- Never rely on a car to stop
- Children younger than 10 should cross the street with an adult
- Only cross at designated crosswalks
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing
- Walk in groups

While pedestrian-vehicle injuries are the [fifth leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 19](#), according to SafeKids.org, no age group is immune. Parents should follow these recommendations as well.

## Clubs Update

Colonel Walker School is proud to offer a variety of clubs during lunch. These clubs have included chess, flags, badminton, sports, art, and technology, just to name a few. Reminders will continue to be sent via Class Dojo. In addition, we have added clubs to our calendar at the end of the newsletter.

Please note that parents of students who attend the hot lunch program will need to send their child with a lunch on days their child attends a club. Alternatively, students who attend hot lunch can arrange with the sponsor teacher to arrive late to the club after returning to school.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mr. Keuben or the sponsoring teacher(s).

## Mrs. Connell - Kindergarten

It has been an exciting month of growth in Kindergarten. We began the month with pledging our handprints on our pink shirt, each saying, "I Promise to be Kind." Every child in our class was "Caught being kind." It has been so rewarding to see the students continue their good habits after our campaign. It was wonderful to see so many families at our assembly.

We are enjoying playing Musical Chairs to identify numbers and letters. Music starts and the students walk around their table group and when the music stops they sit and identify the card on their chair. Stand up and play again.

In free play centers the students have begun to create patterns and melodies using boomwhackers. We have also added a "store" to our classroom. Students practice their



reading skills reading food boxes, then counting coins to purchase the items.

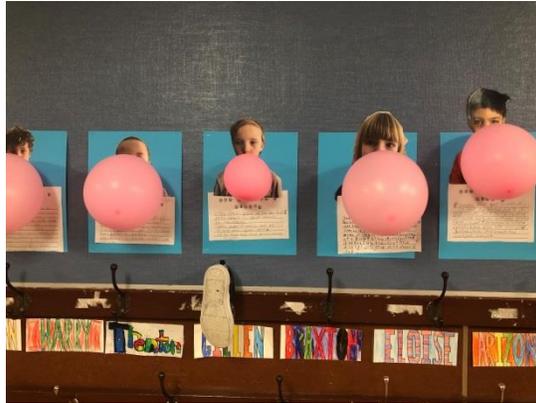
This week a mischievous leprechaun visited our class. There were gold coins and green footprints. We are enjoying using this treasure to buy groceries.

We welcome Miss. Reed as our student teacher. She will be with us till April 19. Miss Reed is a professional flute player, studying Early Childhood Education, so it is a perfect fit for Kindergarten and Music.



## Grade 1/2 Miss Lemke and Mrs. Govett

This month seems to have gone by in a flash! Grade Ones and Twos are looking forward to spring and warmer weather!



In Literacy, Grade twos have been working on procedure writing and adding description into their work. We finished our unit with a writing piece titled “How to Blow a Bubble”. Students used the writing process, which involved planning, writing a draft, editing their work, peer edits, and finally, writing their final draft. You can see these hanging outside of Miss Lemke’s room. Grade one has been working on the time traveller ‘ed’. We talked about how we use this ending when something has past! We continue to work on our story writing and have even touched on podcasting and telling story

through oral language!

In Math, Grade twos have been working their way into double digit addition by learning strategies like using the nearest ten to add. We continue to work on weekly practice with word problems and fast fact fluency in both addition and subtraction. In grade one, we continue to work on building our subtraction strategies. Subtraction has proved to be a little trickier than addition. After spring break we will move into shapes and measurement. It is important we continue to visit addition and subtraction and keep up with our basic facts!

In Social Studies, we have moved our focus to the third community we will be studying this year: a Prairie community. Focusing specifically on Saskatoon, we will discuss the similarities and differences between a Prairie community, where we live, and the other communities we have studied so far this year!

In Science, we are learning all about hot and cold temperatures. We will discuss things like safety with extreme temperatures, measuring temperature, and we will even get into some designing and engineering projects!

We are so excited to welcome our student teachers for the months of April and May!



## Grade 3/4 – Mr. Kearney and Miss Leigh

Building bridges and strengthening hearts! This month has been packed with a science, literacy, and math heavy emphasis. We made blueprints, received feedback on them, made changes, and then budgeted (\$10,000) for materials which were needed for our bridges and we used a materials ordering sheet which included popsicle sticks (\$25), straws (\$10), string (\$500/30cm), ect. Then we built bridges based on strength and aesthetics. This project required teamwork and communication and everyone was incredibly successful.



In gym we worked hard to develop great cardio strength through daily timed skipping sessions. When the kids were able to skip for 1, 2, or 3 minute increments they were able to add their names to large poster boards posted in the gym. This proved to be a great motivator for students and teachers alike! Inspired by Classroom Champions, the students created positive motivational posters for the gym walls to encourage and inspire!

We are looking forward to having student teachers in our classrooms this spring and welcoming them into our community. We look forward to continuing learning about the world around us and how others

live in many different ways. Social studies and exploring quality of life will be a highlight of our month!



## Grade 5/6 – Miss Masniuk

March has flown by for us in Grade 5/6

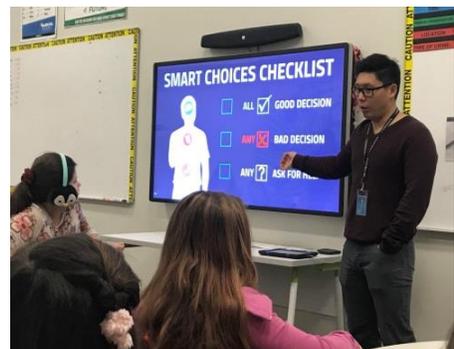
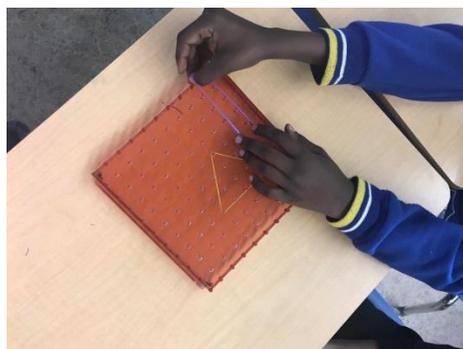


We began the month with an exciting visit to the Youthlink Police Interpretive Centre! It was a great opportunity to explore concepts of forensics in a hands on way. We explored ideas around healthy relationships, gangs, and online safety. Then we helped the police to solve a crime using clues and forensic investigation. As the weather warms up we will begin to look at Trees and Forests into April!

We have begun to learn more about democracy through the lens of our First People's this month. We are learning about how fairness and equality was used in the Iroquois Confederacy. We will be working to compare all three systems of government (Iroquois, Athenian and Canadian) as we move in to April. We are also preparing to be a part of the Civic Student Vote. It is a province wide program that allows students in Grade 6 to participate in a real election. This year the students will be voting in the provincial election! We will be looking at the provincial parties, their campaigns and platforms, then making an informed decision and voting using real ballots! We will continue to learn more about provincial and local government into the month of April.

During language arts we continue to look at narrative writing. We are continuing to improve our story writing skills. We have also reviewed features of a newspaper article as we will be writing a "zine" for our school for the last 3 months. We are going to begin poetry writing and analysis as we move in to April. We are also continuing to learn more about comprehension strategies and their importance to our reading and writing. We also continue to learn how to read to analyze text.

We look forward to having Mrs. G, our student teacher, with us again in April.



## Mrs. Nada Alsharbati

The past month has moved through so quickly and we have been busy in all Grades!

In Grade 1/2, we have been working on strengthening our skills in our skip counting, counting on, estimating sums and spelling numbers from 0 to 20! Students started the month with a scavenger addition hunt! With clipboards, pencils, brains and fingers, students looked around high and low for flashcards in hidden places around different areas of the school to use their mental math skills on. It was an exciting adventure and the students had a blast! We will move onto subtraction next!

In Grade 3/4, each Mathematician has been working hard to solidify their mathematical expertise in different fields in society and will get the chance to present some of our findings at the end of the month! Highlighting and showcasing the impact that Mathematicians play in our world is super important to us! We finished up our Multiplication and Division unit and plan to begin our Fractions and Decimals unit after the break!



In Grade 5/6, we were excited to end all of our Fractions, Decimals, Percentages, and Ratios units with a competitive game of Jeopardy! Students were challenged in teams to answer questions stemming from past PATs as well as questions they've crafted themselves! This battle came to a close win between each team and was a great way for students to recall all the important concepts we've been learning since February! We ended the month with transitioning to our next unit of Geometry and Trigonometry! Students will get the chance to create different shapes based on specific attributes on geoboards, learn a whole lot of vocabulary and the language of Mathematicians - symbols! It's an exciting start and we look forward to it when we are back from Spring break!

Thank you to all the family and friends who stopped by the Math Literacy room during Literacy Night! It was wonderful to meet everyone and it was remarkable to see the diversity of symbolism and language showcased throughout the night! Create engaging sentences using symbolism is a powerful tool and a great way to tie in Mathematics into our daily lives!

Have a nice and warm Spring Break! I look forward to seeing everyone one soon!



## School Council

It has been great to see the turnout and interest in our monthly meetings this year. We will continue to meet this year on the following dates. Babysitting will be provided and we look forward to seeing you there on:

Wed April 17th at 6pm

Wed May 15th at 6pm

Thanks to everyone who attended the potluck dinner and literacy night. These community events are a great way to strengthen our school community. Next month, there will be another chance to get together. The Annual Kitchen Party Fundraiser is fast approaching. We had a great time last year and this year's event will be even bigger and better. Mark your calendar and book your babysitter for April 27th. Tickets will be available soon. What is the Kitchen Party? It is our school's only fundraiser and it raises money to support parent led initiatives for the children of Colonel Walker School, the children who attend Colonel Walker Programs Afterschool/Hot Lunch program at the Community Center. Last year's Kitchen party raised thousands of dollars! We are always looking for great silent auction items so please let us know if you have any to donate.

Thank you,

Stephanie

## APRIL 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	01 Classes Resume	02 Morning Fitness 8:10am Flag Club gr 3-6	03 Conference Manager Opens 4:00pm Wool Club Group A Div 2 Sports Club	04 Morning Fitness 8:10am Badminton Gr 1-2	05 Early Dismissal 12:30pm	06
07	08	09 Morning Fitness 8:10am Flag Club gr 3-6	10 Conference Manager Closes 11:30pm Wool Club Group A	11 Morning Fitness 8:10am School Conferences 4:30pm - 7:30pm Badminton Gr 3-6	12 School Conferences 8:00am - 1:00pm NO School for students	13
14	15	16 Morning Fitness 8:10am Flag Club gr 3-6 Provincial Election	17 School Council/Parent Assoc. 6:00pm-8:00pm Wool Club Group A Div 2 Sports Club	18 Badminton Gr 1-2	19 Good Friday NO School	20
21	22 Non Instructional Day - NO School for students	23 Morning Fitness 8:10am Flag Club gr 3-6	24 Wool Club Group B Div 2 Sports Club	25 Morning Fitness 8:10am 9:30 JR High School Band Badminton Grade 3-6	26 Earth Day Assembly 10:00am - 10:45am. Early Dismissal 12:30pm	27
28	29 Residency with Rebecca Ellison	30 Morning Fitness 8:10am School Residency Flag Club gr 3-6	01 School Residency Wool Club Group B	02 Morning Fitness 8:10am School Residency	03 School Residency Early Dismissal 12:30pm	04