



Royal Oak School

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Important Dates

Jan 7 - Classes Resume

Jan 8 – Gr. 1 Surviving the Seasons Presentations

Jan 9 - Fun Lunch

Jan 12 – **Early Dismissal** for Afternoon Kindergarten and Gr. 1 to Gr. 3

Jan 14 – Kindergarten Registration Begins for 2019/2020; School Council/Fundraising Meeting 6:30 PM

Jan 16- Gr. 1 Glenbow Museum Field Trip (Power, Plaxin, Libbey)

Jan 18– Snack Day; **Early Dismissal** for Morning Kindergarten and Gr. 1 to Gr. 3

Jan 22 – Gr. 1 Glenbow Museum Field Trip (Daniels, Barley, Wong)

Jan 24- Gr. 2 Celebration of Learning 6:00 -7:00 pm

Jan 25 – **Early Dismissal** for Afternoon Kindergarten and Gr. 1 to Gr. 3

Jan 28 - Fun Lunch

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

January Kindergarten Registration at Royal Oak School

The registration for the 2019-2020 Kindergarten Program begins on January 14, 2019. All students who are eligible for Kindergarten and who live in the Royal Oak and Rocky Ridge Communities can register at Royal Oak School. Please register between hours of 9:30 a.m. and 3:15 p.m. You will need to provide proof of your child's name, date of birth and citizenship, as well as proof of address. Only the following documents are accepted:

- Birth Certificate
- Canadian Citizenship Certificate
- Passport
- Baptismal Certificate
- Court Order
- Driver's Licence
- Utility Bill
- Purchase or Lease agreement

Registration forms will be accepted throughout the remainder of the school year.

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

December was a busy and exciting month for Kindergarten students, as they got to experience their very first field trip! Students had the opportunity to experience live theatre by attending ATP's production of "Zorro: Family Code" at the Martha Cohen Theatre. Students enjoyed the dramatic slap-stick comedy of the show, as well as it's heartfelt message. Students learned about the different elements of theatre including plot, characters and setting. In their learning journals, children reflected on their experience by sharing their favourite part of the play.



Highlights from students included:

“My favourite part of the play was when Miguel was fighting Pedro! It was so funny when they jumped on his head and he couldn’t see!”

“I liked it when everyone took off their masks and we found out who Zorro was!”

“I really liked going on the field trip and going to a real theatre!”

Thank you to all of our parent volunteers for making this wonderful experience a positive one for our students. We could not have done it without your gentle care, attention to detail and ‘can do’ spirit!

Sincerely,
The Kindergarten Team
Ms. Mercer, Ms. Dixon, Ms. Sticks!



GRADE 1 NEWS

Grade 1 students continue to work on enhancing their reading and writing through our levelled literacy groups. Students continue to be focused on letter blends and sounds, vowels, reading comprehension, in non-fiction or fiction texts, decoding and encoding strategies. This continues to be a fluid program that we will reassess for January and move students based on their progress throughout the school year.

We continue with “Thinking like a Conservation Biologist.” We have looked for signs of wildlife, the importance of the wetlands and why they are personally important to us. AIWC visited us and we learned about owls and got to dissect real life owl pellets. Students are currently learning how to read and use non-fiction text through learning about animals.

Students continued to work toward accurate representations of numbers 0 - 20, by building, drawing and labeling sets with the correct numerals. Students have also learned about symmetry through building and drawing. Students will be learning about subtraction and addition to 20. They will also be skip counting by 2's, 5's and 10's. It is important to reinforce the skills we are learning when working with numbers and apply them to practical and authentic problem solving. This encourages students to ask questions and apply what they have learned as they work through problems independently, in small groups and as a class.

Grade 1's have book a field trip to the Glenbow Museum. There, we will learn and participate in two programs called: **Our Community, Our People and Discovery Adventure**.

January 16th: Ms. Plaxin, Mrs. Libbey and Ms. Power.

January 22nd: Ms. Daniels, Ms. Barly and Ms. Wong.

Winter Break Challenge:

Students will be coming home with a Winter Break Challenge. Here are some ideas: Read a book to someone in your family, write about my day, teach a math game you learned in school with your family, and write numbers to 20.

Sincerely,

The Grade 1 Team

Ms. Daniels, Ms. Barley, Ms. Wong, Ms. Libbey,

Ms. Plaxin, Ms. Power



GRADE 2 NEWS

Grade 2 students have been very busy leading up to our winter holidays. Thinking of others, they helped collect and donate gifts and supplies to fill 100 backpacks for children in need. Some students created posters or made announcements, while others packed bags and loaded up the van for the organization, Stephen's Backpacks.



As part of our Inquiry work, students have continued their study into the impact the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway has had on our community over time. They have been learning about the many perspectives, both those who are often featured in history books, as well as lesser known stories. Students have been developing their own opinions on this topic, using persuasive language and a paragraph format called 'hamburger style writing.' As they learn about new perspectives, their opinions have gradually changed.

Students have been experimenting with magnets, testing their strength, forces and applying their understanding to build a compass or a design of their own. They have discovered the many uses of magnets in our world.

Students continue to hone their skills in mathematics. They have been using an open number line to explore a variety of ways for adding various numbers, such as starting with the larger number, breaking numbers into tens, fives and ones, jumping to 'friendly numbers' and adjusting forwards or backwards afterwards. Students have been sharing their strategies in partners, as well as large groups, using the mathematical language to explain their thinking.

We are all very excited for the holidays and have been enjoying the many related activities throughout the week, such as carol singing, pajama day, crazy hat and hair day, as well as collecting socks for 'Inn From the Cold.'

Sincerely,

The Grade 2 Team

Ms. Vogan, Ms. Devereux, Ms. MacDonald, Ms. Cook, Ms. Lagrana and Ms. Quesnel

Third Grade

GRADE 3 NEWS

Through the lens of an architect, we have continued to build on and explore our two guiding questions: *What is life and who am I in it?* And, *How does our land influence how we live?*

This month the Grade 3's have been problem solving through STEM challenges designed to highlight the basics of structural design and the power of the iterative process. Students

participated in a variety of flex groupings where each student had the opportunity to learn from each Grade 3 teacher and experience the basic principles of architectural design. We have begun to use and explore the design thinking process, as well as investigate what the actual discipline of architecture involves. Through our architect lens, we have started exploring Peru and India, building our understanding of culture, perspective, and quality of life. We are also coming to understand how these aspects affect different architecture in different destinations around the globe. Becoming more aware of our roles and responsibilities as global citizens.



Students investigating how a structure can span a gap.



Students exploring bridges and arches.

Sincerely,
The Grade 3 Team
Ms. Bennett, Ms. Craig, Mr. Sandberg, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Fournier



MUSIC NEWS

December was all about Winter for our Kindergarten students. We began by exploring the Jingle Bells, which is an instrument that is so very famous that they even wrote a song about it! We played while singing the chorus of Jingle Bells, which gave our students their first experience of the “form” of music. When musicians describe musical form, we identify parts of the music that repeat (the chorus) and parts of the music that are unique (the verses). We also used the bells and other instruments to play a steady beat while singing “Play the Bells to Celebrate” and “London Bridge”.

Grade One students began the month with a game based on the famous book, “Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?”. First, they represented high and low pitch through singing, movement and notation. Then in response to each verse, students showed what they knew about the animals included in the song through dramatic movement. They were especially excited to show off their new understanding of skunk behavior!

Students also used their understanding of high and low pitch to create their own wishes with our “Star Light, Star Light” project. Small groups generated a common wish, and then performed the rhythm of their text on sparkling finger cymbals. After celebrating each group’s “practice wish”, individual students made their own personal wish, which we sent up to the star with our beautiful wind chimes.

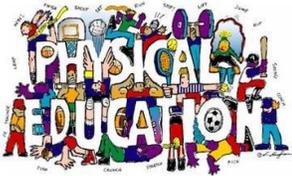
Grade Two students have begun working on their second ostinato project, in which one group performs a repeating rhythmic pattern while another group sings. This time, our music is emerging from our students’ growing understanding of how trains have impacted the development of the Calgary Area through our history. Students have also been deepening their understanding of rhythmic notation while singing the old French song, “Sur la pont d’Avignon”. After performing a clapping beat pattern with a partner, each student improvised a body percussion rhythm for their partner to copy. It was very exciting to watch these young musicians take charge and show off their rhythmic skills independently!

Grade Three students have also been working on beat and rhythm while playing “Tideo”. After singing the chorus with a steady beat, students perform a rhythmic phrase on a new instrument called “The Shoe”. While students play their music on the soles of another person’s feet, their partner could feel the rhythm and offer some quick feedback. Classes have also begun their next project based on the book, “The Snowy Day” and they are looking forward to sharing their final production with a Kindergarten class in January.

Finally, I wanted to share my gratitude to the members of our Grade Three Winter Choir. Over the last month, seventy-three students have spent their recess time in the music room learning seasonal music old and new to prepare for our field trip to the Shane Home YMCA in Rocky Ridge. On December 18th, we packed up two buses and took the show on the road. The Choir sang beautifully to a large crowd of families and other YMCA patrons, and I was extremely proud of how well they represented our school. Many thanks to Mr. Sandberg who helped out with our preparations, to our volunteers who came along on our trip, and to Royal Oak School Fundraising Committee who supplied our buses! The

students are so very lucky to have such a supportive community!

Sincerely,
Ms. Mann, Music Specialist



PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Sincerely,
Ms. Hennick, Phys. Ed. Specialist



STEPHEN'S BACKPACKS SOCIETY



A special thank you goes out to our Royal Oak School Families for supporting the Stephen's Backpacks Society campaign. As a school, we celebrate the spirit of generosity, that is an integral component of the Circle of Courage. This initiative demonstrates our working together as a community to make an impact for a family during this holiday season.

We had 30 Grade 2 & 3 students, parents, and staff members help fill approximately 100 backpacks. Once more, thank you for your generosity in making this such a successful endeavor.

